



Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.

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March 11, 2025

The Honorable John Lively, Chair
House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: HB 3477 - **OPPOSE**

Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba & Levy, and Members of the Committee,

Associated Oregon Loggers (AOL) is the statewide trade association and voice of nearly 1,000 small, family-owned businesses that provide the workforce essential to managing Oregon's forests. We represent Oregon's firefighters, loggers, restoration contractors, reforestation companies and other forest contractors. Our members, who collectively employ close to 23,000 Oregonians, are deeply committed to the sustainability of Oregon's forests.

AOL opposes HB 3477 because would impose additional regulatory requirements related to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that would hurt our members. It does not recognize the practical reality of managing Oregon's natural and working lands. While the bill sponsors claim it recognizes the carbon sequestration potential of natural and working lands by including "net carbon emissions" language, the actual policies of the state have continually undermined and devalued loggers' critical role in maintaining healthy forests and supporting a robust forest products market that can significantly benefit our carbon and climate mitigation targets.

The reality is Oregon's state policies have consistently overlooked and undercut the forest sector's contribution to carbon sequestration, forest health, and rural economic resilience. HB 3477's goal of reaching net negative emissions fails to create real incentives or meaningful support for forest management and wood utilization, instead favoring theoretical and unattainable emission targets.

Furthermore, the state has neglected to exert sufficient pressure on federal land managers to achieve the necessary active forest management to restore, salvage, and improve health to nearly half of the state's land base. Millions of acres in Oregon remain untreated due to federal inaction, lengthy bureaucratic processes, and litigation. Without substantial intervention on federal lands, wildfire risks—and associated emissions—continue to rise. In stark contrast, Oregon loggers actively manage forests to reduce fuels, mitigate wildfires, and produce valuable wood products, all crucial for Oregon's economic and environmental health.

Oregon's private sustainably managed forests already significantly mitigate climate impacts through natural carbon sequestration in forest biomass and long-term carbon storage in harvested wood products. Wood products like lumber and engineered wood store carbon long-term, offering a climate benefit far more meaningful and mutually beneficial compared to punitive emissions regulations on critical businesses and sectors in the state.

The legislature should focus efforts on tangible actions: supporting businesses within the state, actively advocating for a significant increase in federal forest management and leveraging biomass energy and value-added wood products.

Governor-commissioned reports repeatedly outline the extensive treatments needed annually to achieve meaningful progress, yet HB 3477 offers no practical path to realizing these critical goals. Legislators must roll up their sleeves, support practical forest management solutions, and demand federal accountability in actively managing forest lands rather than undercutting critical industries and businesses that keep this state funded and thriving.

In conclusion, AOL respectfully requests the legislature oppose HB 3477 and instead prioritize actionable and realistic approaches to forest management and economic stability in Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



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