

April 3, 2025

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Central Oregon LandWatch Testimony on HB 3846 – Supplemental Facts in Opposition

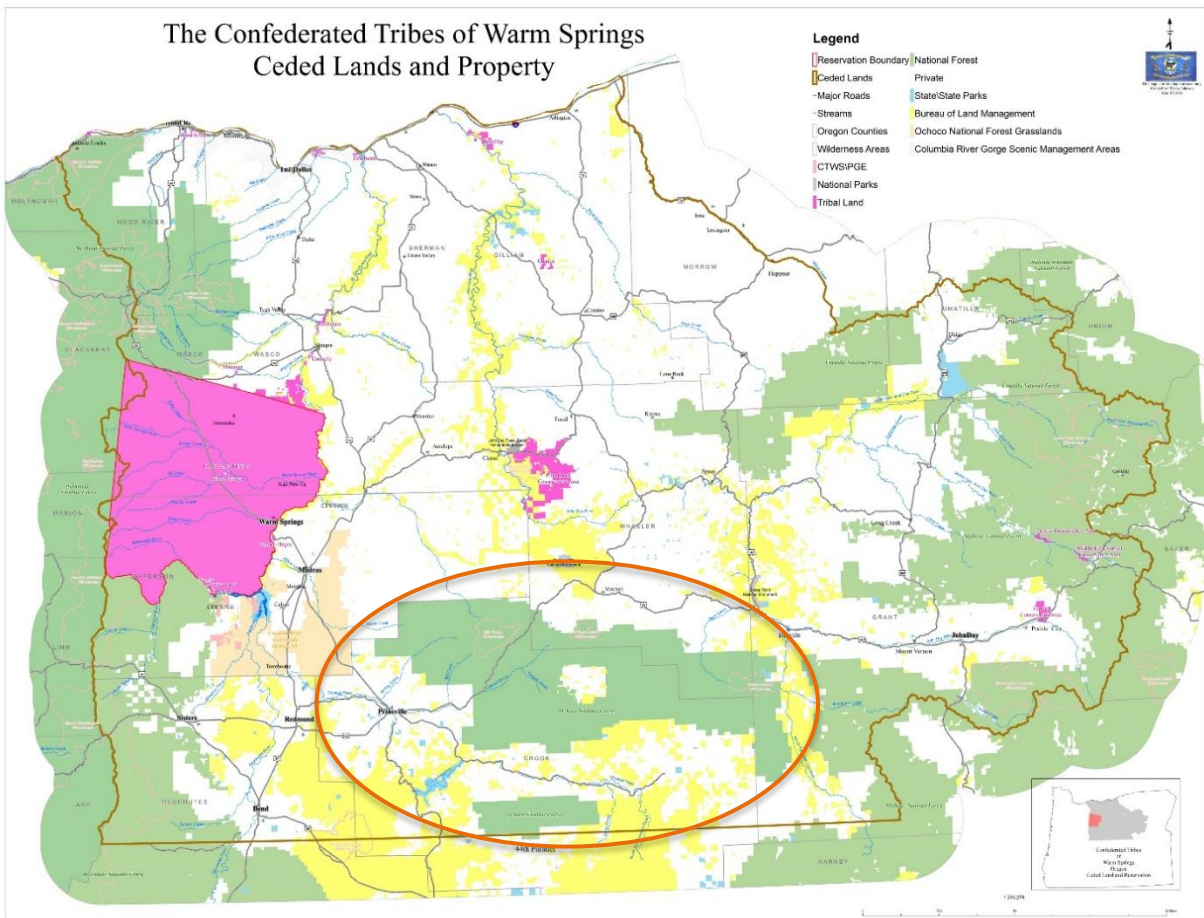
Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 3846. Central Oregon LandWatch (“LandWatch”) submits this addendum to our testimony in opposition to this bill, following our previously submitted written and oral testimony.

Following the hearing for HB 3846, LandWatch offers this supplemental information on forest management, wildland fires, and tribal sovereignty for the Committee to consider:

- Except for a miniscule area at the far southern edge of the Maury Mountains unit, the entire Ochoco National Forest is within the ceded lands of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (see map below). CTWS has reserved treaty rights throughout the Ochoco NF, and any proposal within the National Forest boundary requires tribal consultation. Equally, the State of Oregon and its departments are legally obligated to uphold tribal treaty rights.
- While public perception is often that too much of our forests are burning in the modern era, western forests continue to be in a fire deficit (Hessburg et al., 2021; Parks et al., 2015) and modern fire suppression efforts effectively put out 97-98 percent of all fire starts (Dombeck et al., 2004; Hessburg et al., 2021; North et al., 2015). The two percent of fires that escape suppression efforts are most often driven by extreme fire weather and account for 97 percent of all firefighting costs and area burned (Calkin et al., 2005; Hessburg et al., 2021).
- Logging is not wildfire preparedness, prevention, or mitigation, and forests managed privately or by the state are not more wildfire resilient than federally managed forestland. In recent wildfires in Oregon, privately managed forests experienced higher-severity fire than federally managed forests (Zald & Dunn, 2018).





*Map of the roughly 10 million acres of ceded lands of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, with the Ochoco National Forest circled. Source: Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs*

Once again, we respectfully urge this committee not to pass House Bill 3846, and to reject this effort to normalize the dismantling of public lands. Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,



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## References

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