



**OREGON
WILD**

Let Nature Live. Let Nature Last.

To: House Committee on Climate, Energy
and the Environment

From: Oregon Wild

Re: Oppose HB 3846

Date: April 3, 2025

Oregon Wild strongly opposes HB 3846, which proposes the Oregon Department of Forestry lease the Ochoco National Forest. And we support the position and concerns of Central Oregon Land Watch through their submitted testimony. **We will continue to oppose leasing efforts into the future.**

We will submit additional information and meet with legislators, but for now, we believe that legislators should recognize the fundamentals: the United States Forest Service and National Forest land are managed for different purposes and values and they are managed under different systems and laws than the Oregon Department of Forestry and state forest lands (both Board of Forestry lands and Common School Fund lands). They look different because they are different.

Your excitement about directing management of National Forests the way you direct management of state forests is irrelevant, because they are different and the Forest Service answers to different people. As a former county commissioner, I recognize this urge to tell others what to do or take it upon yourselves to do it the way you want it done. I ask you to resist that urge and remember that federal laws are made by Congress *with your input* and implemented by the executive branch, which is held accountable to the law by the judiciary.

I listened to members of the committee expressing wonder and reverence for these magical places. I, too, love that forest. Take comfort: the elk you love to hunt, the recreation amenities you praised in the hearing; those will still be there. They are not lost to you just because the federal government is thrown into chaos by the President. And they will still be there, even if you are not directing the management of the forest. In fact, with your vocal support for them to the federal government, the recreation you cherish will be there for years to come—for all of us.

I urge the committee to soundly reject HB 3846. If you have questions, I am always available.

Respectfully,

Casey Kulla
state forest policy coordinator
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