

Submitter: Karl Findling  
On Behalf Of: Self  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3846

April 3, 2025

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

A No vote for HB 3826

Dear Members of the Committee,

HB 3846, is an attempt at taking every American's public lands. Attempting to move management of federal public lands to the state, through a lease agreement, equals a transfer of those public lands, to the state. This bill would threaten all of what has been created for our national forestlands and set a terrible precedent by opening the door to transfer of federal public lands without public input, or demonstrated need. This Bill, is a direct attack on every Oregonian, and every American! I oppose any taking of American's public lands, in any shape or form. This is an attempt to steal these public lands from the majority of Oregonian's, every American, or foreigner, that travels to enjoy our public lands.

This Bill mirrors a number of western states attempts to transfer public lands, to counties, and thus onto private ownership through the sale of these acquisitions. The vague language, and the fifteen-year ask, is alarming, and every Oregonian needs to be aware of these attempts at public land takeovers, and by whom.

Oregon, (and nearly every other western state), is in no way able manage their own lands,<sup>1</sup> fiscally, or outright, let alone adding nearly 900,000 acres of land-base, from within the Ochoco National Forest boundary—a net increase of over 125%, more than doubling the acreage of lands to the total amount being currently managed by the state.

Many years, emergency funds are necessary to balance the state budget due to these overruns, and recent cuts to the state from the federal government withholding taxpayer monies, Oregon will be unable to successfully manage a more than doubling of acreage ODF manages.<sup>2</sup>

Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), is under a separate mandate than the federal government, to manage state forest lands, and those costs continue to rise, year-after-year.<sup>3</sup> Our federal public lands are managed by a multiple use doctrine, whereas or State Constitution, provides the language for managing state lands, versus federal lands for multiple use.

The only logical conclusion of this Bill's vague language, is to increase the extractive

policies upon the landscape, under the guise of “active management”, “adaptive management”, “working landscapes”, “creating more jobs”, all the while logging, thinning, and “restoring” our forests to make our communities “feel” safer.

Study, after study, has proven, that logging, and thinning don’t make communities safer from wildfire.,<sup>4,5,6,7</sup> The Paradise fire in North-Central California, is but one example of many conclusions to that failed paradigm.,<sup>4,5,6,7</sup>

This Bill reeks of the recent national-political fallout. This Bill seems to be one of those attempts at a land-grab, where this Country’s new Administration seems emboldened to prioritize the confiscation of America’s public lands, for private gain--nothing can be gained from this move.

This Bill would impact not just the 4.3 million Oregonian’s, but the 330 million American’s, and any foreigner, that would enjoy these public lands, and would essentially would be banned from these lands, once leased.

A number of counties in Oregon are in support of transfer, or takeover of our Federal Public Lands. Those counties are seeking control of federal lands in their county.

The federal public lands are an American Legacy for all people, for all time.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Karl J. Findling,  
Bend, Oregon

1. Pew Charitable, Wildfires: Burning through State Budgets, 11, 2022
2. Oregon lawmakers propose cautious budget amid federal funding uncertainty, Statesman Journal, March, 2025
3. Headwaters Economics, State Trust Lands in Transition: Implications for Federal Land Transfer, 11, 2019
4. Smokescreen, Hanson, Chad. Hessburg et al., 2021; Parks et al., 2015
5. Dombeck et al., 2004; Hessburg et al., 2021; North et al.,