

Submitter: David Mildrexler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3846

Dear House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment,

I am a native Oregonian and I live in the Blue Mountains of Eastern Oregon. I am adamantly opposed to House Bill 3846, and I'm writing to ask that you oppose it.

This bill is an attack on our Public Lands. National forest lands should not be turned over to State Agencies to manage. This is another attempt to privatize public lands and use the threat of wildfire to push this backhanded agenda.

Oregonians cherish our Federal Lands. These lands are part of our culture. We hunt, fish, recreate, camp, and make memories over generations on these lands. The Ochoco National Forest is beloved by Oregonians from the east and west side of our State.

The justification for this bill is based on misinformation. A study which looked at more than 22,000 fires, found that those crossing jurisdictional boundaries are primarily caused by people on private property. Of all ignitions that crossed jurisdictional boundaries, a little more than 60% originated on private property, and 28% ignited on national forests. Most of the fires started due to human activity. You can read about the study here (<https://news.oregonstate.edu/news/osu-research-suggests-forest-service-lands-not-main-source-wildfires-affecting-communities>).

I love my National Forest lands and I support the Forest Service in stewarding these lands. I urge you to reject this misinformed bill that is really about privatizing Oregon's beloved National Forest Lands.

David Mildrexler, PhD
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