

Submitter: Maggie P

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1153

I and my entire family oppose this bill.

Would you like to eat local food, produced in Oregon? Would you like to build housing out of wood, a renewable resource, that was harvested in Oregon? Would you like to collect taxes from a broad range of sectors that will benefit all counties? Would you like Oregon to be self-sustaining and not entirely reliant other states and countries for their food and resources?

If the answer is yes, then continuing to use habitat conservation as a bludgeon to take away the rights of rural Oregonians and regulate industries out of existence is, perhaps, not the path to choose.

Maybe collapsing those industries is the point...in the name of habitat conservation. Well, what that means is state and local budgets will rely on a narrowing set of revenue sources - most notably, increasing taxes and fees across the board. It has already begun. The economic fallout and real life consequences are already being felt.

Perhaps you don't care.

Then consider this, cities can suck up as much water as they'd like. People can water their 200sqft of lawn all day long or go play golf in the desert. Data centers have no limits on water usage. Homeless can camp and dump their human waste, drugs, and trash right on the banks of our rivers and in our forests with no consequences. Major cities along the Willamette and Columbia continue to release raw sewage into the rivers.

State and County leaders can with one hand redraw their urban growth boundaries to swallow up more land and water, while with the other hand deny property rights, building rights, water rights, and sources of income for rural residents...in the name of habitat conservation.

Can you see the hypocrisy?