

Testimony Regarding House Bill 3337

To: House Committee on Energy and Environment

I am writing to you to express my concern for what passing HB 3337 means for our state. As a citizen of Oregon, I am concerned for our population's quality of life now and in the future. For many Oregonians, our quality of living comes from having access to our outside environment for recreation; having enough money for a decent standard of living; and having economic opportunities related to the land. While I believe in conserving the environment, the current trend of "conservation" has lost sight of the needs of the American public. There are multiple laws and land designations that "lock up" the land from multiple-uses that have far reaching impacts. For example, the effects of listing Northern Spotted Owl as an "Endangered Species" continues to be studied, but we know that despite "conserving their environment" their numbers continue to decline, thousands of Oregonians' have lost their means of supporting themselves, and the public has lost valuable access to multiple-use land. Currently, Oregonians are losing access to our public lands at an alarming rate due to multiple "conservation" policies on the federal lands: For example, implementation of the Travel Management Plan (TMP) on US Forest Service land has eliminated access to thousands of miles of trails and roads for hunting, wood gathering, fishing, trail riding, camping, etc. The Bureau of Land Management is about to start it's TMP process and promises to be far reaching; we have multiple rivers being considered for "Wild and Scenic" designation; we have a few birds being considered as "Endangered Species" that create new and vast areas of inaccessible land all across Oregon. These "conservation" measures will continue to impact Oregonians' economic future and their quality of life.

I am not a lawyer and I do not pretend to understand exactly what HB 3337 will mean for the state. Reading HB 3337, I am concerned this bill will place a burden on the state to do a lot of work, possibly costing millions to billions of dollars to fulfill its requirements, Oregonians will lose jobs and income potential, and the people of Oregon will lose yet more access to our environment. This is a critical time for Oregon, our budget is in terrible disarray, our schools seem to be at the brink of collapse, and we are losing federal economic support. Will HB 3337 help Oregon's current economic recovery?

Please proceed carefully.

Thank you for your attention. Respectfully,

Ethan Lodwig
Eugene, Oregon