

Emily Hyde
6511 SE Knight Street
Portland, OR 97206

February 3, 2022

Senate Committee on Natural Recourses and Wildfire Recovery
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 1546

Dear Senate Committee on Natural Recourses and Wildfire Recovery:

I am writing in immense opposition to Senate Bill 1546. I am not swayed by the intricacy or breadth of the litigations surrounding the Elliot State Forest. Contained in the propositions are catastrophic failures of character to recognize what is happening and act accordingly. The fire is a belated call. The protection, preservation and restoration of the Elliot State Forest and the creatures who depend upon it is of highest priority. Nothing in the world is more important at this time, not even a pandemic whose very origin is the face of human ugliness.

Please do not allow our complete disregard and disrespect of the natural world to unfold in what remains of this forest. The integrity of the Elliot State Forest as a whole organism cannot be underestimated. If it is fragmented under the current conditions, it will perish and die. The lifeforce of this old forest, so long as it is undisturbed by human malice, is the only stronghold we have left. It is the backbone of our region and quite possibly the key to our survival. Let us consider that the old trees and their surrounding milieu are the patron saints of our time. Their profound resilience to fire, their capacity to influence the weather and draw rainclouds inland from the sea, their inexplicable triumph as carbon reservoirs, all of these factors contribute to a living world. I deeply implore that you seek reliable, scholarly education on this critical issue and resolve to protect the heart of our region. Please do not allow Senate Bill 1546 to move forward.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Emily Hyde
Portland, OR