



Representative Bobby Levy

Serving Umatilla, Union & Wallowa Counties

Chair Marsh, Vice Chair Levy, members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Bobby Levy, state representative for House District 58. I am testifying today to express my support for House Bill 3003.

Western Juniper has been a plague on the Oregon ecosystem-- overcrowding our native plant life. If passed HB 3142 would give Central Oregon the resources to remove these tree. HB 3003 gives incentives for the productive use of the western juniper biomass. Utilizing the western juniper biomass as a fuel source is a carbon neutral energy option, helping alleviate some of the harmful effects that other fuel sources have on the environment. Oregon needs to invest in creative and environmentally sound solutions. HB 3003 is one of those creative solutions, while it does not directly deal with the problems it does provide incentives for utility companies to buy Western Juniper biomass in the form of a tax credit. This then incentives property owners to remove the western juniper plaguing them to sell it to the utility companies. While HB 3003 does not directly call for removal of western juniper it pushes the market into a path that will do so willingly.

Creative and innovative solutions to Oregon's western juniper problem is needed and that is exactly what HB 3003 does. I urge you to please vote yes on HB 3003.

Best,
Rep. Bobby Levy, HD 58