

I am life time resident of the Santiam Canyon area. In my lifetime, I have seen the timber industry in the canyon shrink from the major source of jobs in the canyon to a small player that it is today. This is because the government owns the majority of the timber in the area. When both the federal government and the state decided to quit selling logs, it reduced the available supply to a tiny fraction of what it once was. Today, only two major mills survive in the Canyon. This bill would transfer state owned timberlands back to the counties so that they could harvest this timber and help support the local communities as well as provide good paying jobs for the area. I see this as a win for all. It would be done in a sustainable manner. It would put the forests to good use and it would provide more dollars to the state and counties.

Thank you for your consideration.

John J Beitel

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