

Submitter: John Schmit

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB795

Chair Golden and members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support for Senate Bill 795,

- State government has stopped fulfilling its side of a deal made decades ago to ACTIVELY manage forestland conveyed to the state to return revenue to the counties who deeded the land.
- Instead, the state has increasingly caved to pressure from anti-timber activists and has ignored the economic and social and climate cost to rural Oregon.
- And now the state has refused to allow the counties to be part of the drafting and review committees for a Habitat Conservation Plan that will dictate management of state forests for the next 70 years.
- New evidence shows the HCP will DEVASTATE county budgets. Recent projections indicate harvest revenues will be over 30% less than the state promised when it started this process.
- That means critical public services like fire departments, community colleges, healthcare centers, emergency response, libraries, recreation centers, and K-12 school districts will be left with massive holes in their budgets.
- Jewell School district in Clatsop County has said the reduced revenue will mean they have to fire over 90% of their teachers!
- It's time for this to end. Give the counties the ability to have their land back and manage it sustainably as a reliable source of revenue for those of us who live in rural Oregon.