

Submitter: Rand Schenck

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB795

Chair Golden and Members of the Natural Resources Committee,

I strongly oppose conveying state forests to counties and urge you vote against this bill. This reminds me of past efforts on the national level to convey federal forests to states to manage. This failed because those forests are for all the people of the United States. In much the same vein our state forests are for all of the people of Oregon not for individual counties that could choose to sell off those lands. Very quickly these forests could lose the multiple benefits they now provide us: clean drinking water, wildlife habitat, recreation.

ODF will soon be adopting a long range Forest Plan For Oregon. I believe this Plan will ensure that in the future our forests will better serve all Oregonians and recognize that the Greatest Permanent Value is not primarily about harvesting trees - though climate smart forests will be one component - but also about protecting habitat for endangered species, ensure rural communities have clean drinking water, and providing diverse recreation opportunities.

Thanks,

Rand Schenck,
Forestry Lead, Metro Climate Action Team