

Submitter: Cheryl Conway

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB795

Date: February 25, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources

Chair Golden

Vice-Chair Girod

Senator Prozanski

Senator Brock Smith

Senator Taylor

From: Cheryl T Conway

Astoria, OR

RE: Please Oppose SB 795 and County Takeover of Oregon's State Forests

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, and Members of the Committee:

Please do not give control of the state forests to county governments. Some of these county governments are controlled by people closely tied to the timber industry who cannot be trusted to make decisions for the good of their constituents when those decisions affect their personal finances. Even commissioners who have no financial interests in the timber industry are forced to consider overcutting as a means of keeping their governments afloat. Unless or until timber harvests in state forests are decoupled from county financing, the conflict of interests and economic pressure are too likely to result in overcutting those forests.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opposition to SB 795.