

Submitter: Roger Dorband

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB795

Chairman Golden and Members of the Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing in opposition to SB 795. By way of the Oregon Supreme Court's ruling on the bogus Linn County Lawsuit it determined that there is no legal contract that obligates the state to provide funds for the counties from timber harvest on state land. The Oregon Department of forestry is improving on their current operable principle that forest values include wildlife habitat, clean water sources, carbon sequestration, opportunities for citizens to hike and camp on our public lands, in addition to some timber harvest.

Considering that the agreement to provide funds for the counties from timber harvest on state land was made nearly a century ago, I'm sure you agree that we are in completely new territory due to the rapid onset of global warming. That old agreement has been rendered antiquated by the current situation. We simply cannot afford to keep cutting down state forest if we are going to meet the state's climate mitigation goals.

Turning the state forest management over to the counties would result in increased deforestation at a time when climate scientists are calling for more reforestation. In Clatsop County the Board of Clatsop County Commissioners is dominated by pro-timber industry commissioners. The damage they could do our public land is completely out of sync with what the management ideals that the majority of Oregonians want.

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW SB795 TO GO FORWARD IN COMMITTEE. OUR CURRENT SUSTEM IS WORKING WELL ENOUGH AND PROMISES NUMEROUS IMPROVEMENTS TO FORST MANAGEMENT IN OREGON IN THE FUTURE. STEPPING BACK FORM THE STATUS QUO BY ALLOWING COUNTIES TO MANAGE THEIR STATE FOREST WILL REKINDLE THE TIMBER WARS AND SET THE CLIMATE GOALS OF THE STATE BACK FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.