

Submitter: Helena Birecki
On Behalf Of: Neskowin
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure: SB795

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-chair Girod, and Members of the Natural Resources Committee,

I strongly oppose conveying state forests to counties and urge you vote against this bill. I live in Tillamook County and know that my county does not have the resources to be able to steward the forests itself. I am extremely concerned that this could end up in the county selling the land off to the highest bidder, allowing for clearcutting, development, and paving over areas that currently provide not only clean drinking water, wildlife habitat and recreation but also protection from landslides and floods.

The state, on the other hand, has more dedicated staff working on the complex challenge of making sure that Oregon lands are stewarded wisely for now and future generations, and assessing the human health and safety needs of climate disaster mitigation, environmental protection as well as the business benefits. ODF will soon be adopting a long range Forest Plan For Oregon. This Plan should ensure that in the future our forests will be managed in a sustainable way that provides for the wellbeing of the people who live near them, and work and recreate in them.

Sincerely,
Helena Birecki
Tillamook County resident