**Subject: Please oppose expanded logging that puts Lane County watersheds and communities at risk**

Dear Lane County Commissioners,

I am writing to urge the Lane County Board of Commissioners to oppose federal and legislative proposals that would significantly expand logging on Oregon's public lands, including the BLM Western Oregon plan revisions, the Northwest Forest Plan revisions, the Roadless Rule rollback, and H.R. 7603, the O&C Renewal Act of 2026.

I understand that Lane County has historically received revenue connected to BLM timber harvests and that county governments are often under real budget pressure. But the long-term costs of expanded extraction would far outweigh any short-term timber payments the county might receive.

Lane County residents depend on healthy forests and watersheds for clean drinking water, stable slopes, fisheries, recreation, local tourism, and climate resilience. Increased logging and road building can raise landslide risks, increase sediment in streams, reduce streamside shade, harm fish habitat, reduce summer watershed flows, and increase herbicide use near watersheds. Rescinding the Roadless Rule would increase wildfire risk and impose expensive long-term road maintenance costs. Wildfire ignition density is highest near roads, including within 50 meters of roads, and roughly 90% of wildfires start within half a mile of a road. More roads mean more human-caused ignition risk, more fragmentation, and more public expense. These impacts can translate into higher costs for water treatment, road repair, disaster response, habitat restoration, public health protection, and state and local emergency services.

In other words, timber revenue is not free money. It can come with public costs that are shifted onto residents, local governments, state agencies, future taxpayers, and future generations.

The economic argument for increased logging is also overstated. Modern logging and milling are far more mechanized than they were decades ago, meaning that increased harvest does not produce the same level of employment it once did. Any temporary job gains must also be weighed against losses to recreation, tourism, fisheries, outdoor businesses, and gateway communities that benefit from intact forests and clean waterways.

Lane County's long-term prosperity should not depend on depleting the natural systems that make this region livable. A diversified and sustainable economy — including health care, education, technology, small businesses, recreation, tourism, restoration work,

and sustainable forest management — is a better path than doubling down on extraction from public forests.

Oregon's forests are also a major climate asset. They store billions of metric tons of carbon, moderate local climate, and help buffer communities from worsening drought, heat, flooding, and wildfire risk. Once mature and old-growth forests are cut, their carbon storage and ecological functions are not quickly restored. Trees may regrow, but the complex functions of mature and old-growth forests can take many decades or centuries to recover.

I urge the Lane County Commissioners to:

1. Publicly oppose H.R. 7603 and any federal proposal that makes timber production the dominant purpose of Western Oregon public forests.
2. Oppose rollbacks of the Roadless Rule and support protective legislation such as the Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2025.
3. Advocate for full public hearings and meaningful public input before any major expansion of logging on public lands.
4. Demand that county-level cost impacts — including water quality, landslide risk, road damage, emergency response, recreation losses, and climate impacts — be fully evaluated before supporting increased harvest.
5. Prioritize the long-term health, safety, and economic resilience of Lane County residents over short-term timber revenue.

Lane County's forests and watersheds are public assets. They should be managed for the long-term benefit of the whole community, not primarily for the short-term benefit of the timber industry.

Please stand up for Lane County residents, our watersheds, and future generations.

Sincerely,