



Clatsop County

Board of Commissioners

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May 9, 2023

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

Subject: HB 3585

Dear Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Hartman and Owens and Member of the Committee:

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners supports HB 3585. Clatsop County relies on timber revenues to fund essential public services, including public safety and justice, education, health care and services to those most vulnerable in our community. For Clatsop County, timber revenues represent nearly 10% of annual discretionary revenues.

The Board of Commissioners' strongly desire a return to the once strong partnership and collaboration between the Department of Forestry and counties regarding the management of the trust lands; and as such, support the requirement for the Department of Forestry to consider a range of forest management strategies, including a comprehensive analysis of the impacts of such strategies on local government revenues.

The Department of Forestry should not act autonomously in the management of trust lands, but genuinely and actively collaborate in supporting policy that balances environmental, economic and social factors.

An annual report by the State Forester to a committee or interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to natural resources, will provide a means to enhance the transparency of the Department of Forestry.

The Department of Forestry has much work to do to restore trust with the trust land counties; HB 3585 is a step in the right direction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark Kujala".

Mark Kujala, Chair
Clatsop County Board of Commissioners