



from the

## OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

### **For Immediate Release**

Date: March 8, 2023

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### **House Republican Caucus Sends Letter to Governor Kotek Urging Immediate Reconsideration of ODF's Proposed 'Habitat Conservation Plan'**

**SALEM, OR** – Yesterday, the Oregon House Republican Caucus sent a letter to Governor Kotek urging the immediate reconsideration of the Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) proposed 'Habitat Conservation Plan' or HCP. In a February 15 meeting, the Board of Forestry rejected a proposal that would have taken the plan back to the drawing board to balance the economic needs of Oregon's rural communities.

House Republican lawmakers stated that the current plan extends much further than was previously proposed by the ODF, citing a 27% harvest reduction on state forestlands which would devastate individual communities.

*"In real numbers this means a reduction from 73 million MMBF to about 50 MMBF in areas around Astoria, and from 61 MMBF to as low as 43 MMBF in Forest Grove," **the lawmakers wrote.***

The lawmakers said that while they largely support the *intent* of the HCP, they are concerned about the valuable economic and societal resources in jeopardy.

*"Sharp reductions will result in a steady decline to state and county revenues, less available public services, fewer jobs, lower wages, and a hemorrhaging rural business industry," **the lawmakers wrote.***

The House Republican Caucus stated that given the long-lasting ramifications of the HCP on rural communities, ODF's current proposal must be reconsidered.

*"...while ODF has previously signaled their intent to balance conservation goals while maintaining and increasing current harvest levels, the current Plan is heavy on protection and light on economic realism," **the lawmakers wrote.***

Representative Cyrus Javadi (R-Tillamook) has proposed legislation that would require the ODF to consider other HCP plans and issue a detailed analysis of how ODF regulations impact local jobs.

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*OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

*House Republican Caucus*

March 7, 2023

**Via Electronic Mail**

The Honorable Tina Kotek  
Office of the Governor  
900 Court Street, NE Suite 254  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Governor Kotek:

As you may know, the Department of Forestry is currently developing a 'Habitat Conservation Plan' ("HCP"). Any HCP will undoubtedly affect the livelihoods of our constituents. While our Caucus largely supports the *intent* of the HCP and reasonable conservation measures, we want to ensure that our forests continue to be valuable economic and societal resources for communities. In other words, we caution against HCP measures that are so burdensome as to have a disparate impact on our communities at a time of growing economic uncertainty.

Last month ODF released their FY 24-25 Implementation Plan, which, for the first time incorporates HCP conservation practices. The results are startling and suggest that ODF's plans are far more reaching than previously understood. For example, while ODF previously proposed annual harvest target ranges of 226 MMBF, this has been modified to range from 165 to 182.5 MMBF, a 27% reduction. In real numbers this means a reduction from 73 million MMBF to about 50 MMBF in areas around Astoria, and from 61 MMBF to as low as 43 MMBF in Forest Grove. Sharp reductions will result in a steady decline to state and county revenues, less available public services, fewer jobs, lower wages, and a hemorrhaging rural business industry.

Fortunately, ODF has supplied alternative implementation plans to the Board of Forestry. Our Caucus takes no specific position on the vitality of the other proposals. However, while ODF has previously signaled their intent to balance conservation goals while maintaining and increasing current harvest levels, the current Plan is heavy on protection and light on economic realism.

Governor Tina Kotek  
March 7, 2023  
Re: State Forest Management

Given the vast and long-lasting ramifications of the HCP on rural communities, we strongly urge reconsideration of ODF's proposals. While the HCP has the opportunity to benefit our forests, we must ensure that we also avoid the pitfalls and unintended consequences to our communities.

Sincerely,



Vikki Breese-Iverson  
House Republican Leader



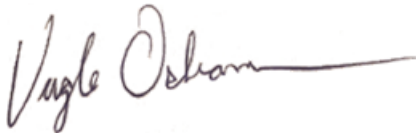
Shelly Boshart Davis  
Deputy Republican Leader



E. Werner Reschke  
House Republican Whip



Court Boice  
State Representative, District 1



Virgle Osborne  
State Representative, District 2



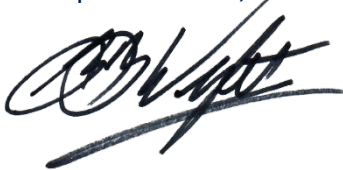
Lily Morgan  
State Representative, District 3



Christine Goodwin  
State Representative, District 4



Kim Wallan  
State Representative, District 6



Boomer Wright  
State Representative, District 9



Jami Cate  
State Representative, District 11

Governor Tina Kotek  
March 7, 2023  
Re: State Forest Management



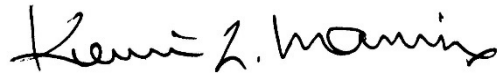
Charlie Conrad  
State Representative, District 12



Ed Diehl  
State Representative, District 17



Rick Lewis  
State Representative, District 18



Kevin Mannix  
State Representative, District 21



Tracy Cramer  
State Representative, District 22



Lucetta Elmer  
State Representative, District 24



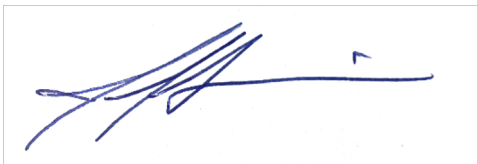
Anna Scharf  
State Representative, District 23



Brian Stout  
State Representative, District 31



Cyrus Javadi  
State Representative, District 32



Jeff Helfrich  
State Representative, District 52

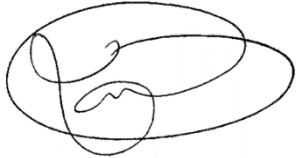
Governor Tina Kotek  
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James Hieb  
State Representative, District 51




Greg Smith  
State Representative, District 57



Emily McIntire  
State Representative, District 56



Bobby Levy  
State Representative, District 58



Mark Owens  
State Representative, District 60

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cc:

Jim Kelly, Chair, Oregon Board of Forestry  
Cal Mukumoto, State Forester