



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 representatives of rural and coastal districts, we write to you today to express our concerns about the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) being pursued by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and the impact it may have on the communities we represent.

As you know, our districts are renowned nationwide for their natural beauty and their economic production. Forest harvests generate revenue for state and county operations and services, and support thousands of workers, hundreds of family-owned businesses, and critical wood manufacturing infrastructure. We recognize the need to implement an HCP, but we also recognize that it must strike a balance between conservation and economic viability.

The recently released State Forest Implementation Plans (IPs) are a source of disappointment and alarm for us. The projected harvest levels of 165-182.5 million board feet (MMBF) reflect a 27% reduction from the 225 MMBF average ODF suggested the HCP would deliver as recently as November 2022 and a 34% reduction from what the agency projected at the start of the HCP process in 2018. We fear that these IPs are reflective of a plan that could instead commit our communities to an unsustainable future.

A reduction in harvestable timber of this size would devastate local taxing districts' budgets that provide essential public services like public safety, education, and infrastructure maintenance. This would make our communities more reliant on the State School Fund, and other state funds, straining already limited resources.

We urge the ODF to explain and address the shortcomings of the recently released State Forest IPs and suggest removing the HCP constraints from the IPs until an HCP is adopted by the Board of Forestry (BOF). As representatives of the impacted communities, our view is that an alternative plan that achieves the harvest levels ODF claimed their HCP would produce would more appropriately consider the economic impacts of the HCP while also addressing conservation issues that must be rectified.



We urge both your Office and your Administration, including the BOF and ODF, to consider and pursue an alternative plan and to work collaboratively with our communities to avoid the pitfalls and unintended consequences of the HCP. Our constituents deserve to have their interests represented and safeguarded in this process.

We also recognize your goal "that every part of the state can be successful." We believe that ODF has the ability to draft a better plan that will sustain higher timber harvest volumes, meet both the conservation goals of the ODF and the economic needs of the coastal and forest regions.

In conclusion, we urge you to direct ODF to improve the HCP to increase timber harvest volumes before it is too late. We believe that by working together, we can develop a plan that better serves our communities while providing adequate protection for sensitive wildlife.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Representative Cyrus Javadi  
House District 32

Senator Suzanne Weber  
Senate District 16

Senator David Brock Smith  
Senate District 1

Representative Boomer Wright  
House District 9

Representative Court Boice  
House District 1

Representative Brian Stout  
House District 31

Senator Dick Anderson  
Senate District 5



cc:

Jim Kelly, Chair, Oregon Board of Forestry

Cal Mukumoto, State Forester