



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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District One

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District Two

Tye Menser  
District Three

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## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 29, 2022

Hilary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands  
MS 47001  
Olympia, WA 98504-7001

RE: CRUSH Timber Sale

Dear Commissioner Franz:

Please accept this input regarding the CRUSH timber sale in Thurston County. As the County Commissioner in the district where this parcel is located, I wanted to share my concerns about the sale. We have received input from hundreds of concerned Thurston County residents.

As you likely know, Capitol Forest is heavily used for hiking, biking, and other recreational activities. I encourage you to work to protect these trails and recreational areas. As our community grows, so does the need to protect these natural environments for our residents to enjoy. Now, more than ever, it is important we connect our people to our shared physical place, and protect those places for future generations.

Additionally, this area is also considered a Legacy forest. The biodiversity, varied diameter of trees, carbon absorption, and wildlife habitat this forest provides is invaluable. Especially as I consider the impacts of climate change, I am moved to want to protect our Legacy forests, as they connect to our regional climate mitigation strategies.

I understand that a portion of the sales proceeds will come to Thurston County. Though I can't speak for other potential recipients of these funds, I can say that, in my opinion, the modest portion of the proceeds likely to be received by Thurston County from this sale would not outweigh the overall value of ecosystem services provided by this important piece of forest.

Thank you for taking time to consider my comments.

Very truly yours,

Tye Menser, Thurston County Commissioner, District 3