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TESTIMONY ON HB#1250 - POSITION: UNFAVORABLE
Environment - Wood Vaults - Authorization and Permit Requirements

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee
FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB1250, Environment - Wood Vaults - Authorization and Permit Requirements

This bill will permit rushing forward on an unproven technology for climate change mitigation. As reported by the MIT Technology Review

> "But there are still many unknowns.
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> "We have to recognize that the science of wood harvesting and storage is still evolving," says Daniel Sanchez, chief scientist for biomass carbon removal and storage at Carbon Direct, which evaluates carbon removal efforts and corporate climate plans. "Most importantly, our understanding of what drives or doesn't drive decomposition of wood needs to be refined." [1]

Passage of this bill could lead to an increase in logging in pursuit of carbon credits. Logging operations produce more CO2 emissions in processing the wood. This bill is unclear on what wood could be buried in a vault. The vaults to be permitted by this bill would disrupt protected lands that are currently under conversation easements. The permitting process for the actions this bill could facilitate has been insufficient to protect our communities. Additionally, what monitoring systems exist that will be operable for the centuries ahead of the creation of the wood vault?

This bill is not climate friendly; it puts unproven technology and possible profits it might offer ahead of the science on wood vaults supposed benefits.

I respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on HB#1250.

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[1] https://www.technologyreview.com/2022/12/15/1065016/a-stealth-effort-to-bury-wood-for-carbon-removal-has-just-raised-millions/