



House Committee On Rules
Chair Holvey and members of the committee

RE: HB 4166

WE ARE CONFUSED WITH THE PURPOSE OF THIS BILL. WE SUPPORT THE INTENT, BUT NOT THE PROCESS.

This bill authorizes contracting an independent economist to collect data on actual costs of wildfire protection and wildfire suppression cost and funding source information for lands protected by State Forestry Department.

Contracting an economist should be to obtain an objective evaluation, but then the bill hinders the results with biases by requiring collaboration with a project team or technical advisory group consisting of legislators, department personnel and stakeholders. Why waste money on an economist?

It needs an objective analysis from the economist and then a project team can evaluate results for ways to improve.

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