



Date: February 14, 2024

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

From: State Forest Coalition members

RE: Please oppose HB 4106-1

Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Hartman and Owen, and Members of the Committee:

On the behalf of the State Forest Coalition, including the groups signed below, we ask that you oppose HB 4106.

HB 4106 would be a significant departure from current management practices for state forests. It would require state forests to be managed like private forests to maximize timber harvest at the expense of clean water, salmon and wildlife habitat, and recreation.

HB 4106 and its amendments would:

- Require the state forester to set harvest plans that maximize net present value at a discount rate commonly used by private foresters, resulting in shorter rotations between harvest, more clearcuts and less habitat for imperiled species.
- Require the state forester to justify every constraint placed on timber harvest, such as those required by the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), including stream buffers and habitat areas for threatened species. Every tree set aside from harvest would need justification and would be subject to litigation by the timber industry.
- Create a special right for the timber industry and any person profiting from timber harvest from state forests to sue the state over its harvest plans. It would create a backdoor path to challenge the HCP and habitat protections on state forests on an as-applied basis.
- Eliminate any deference to the State Forester, Board of Forestry or federal agencies responsible for compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act.
- Prevent the implementation of the Department of Forestry’s (ODF) Board-adopted Climate Change and Carbon Plan by requiring state forests to be managed on short harvest rotations, reducing carbon absorption and storage.

In addition, the bill’s reporting requirements are duplicative. The ODF already publishes annual reports on timber harvest and revenue, including revenue to individual counties. It provides public review and opportunities to comment on draft Forest Management Plans, Implementation Plans and Annual Operating Plans. The ODF is in the process of updating its Key Performance

Measures (KPMs) and reports progress on meeting these KPMs on a biennial basis to the Legislature.

For the reasons stated above, we ask that you please oppose HB 4106-1. Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

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Travis Williams
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Willamette Riverkeeper

Casey Kulla
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