

Dear Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Hartman and Owens, and other members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water,

As an Oregonian who lives in a community surrounded by state forest, I urge the Committee to vote no on HB 4106.

HB 4106 is clearly an attempt to undermine, if not eliminate, the carefully thought out State Forester's Habitat Conservation Plan now under consideration. The bill would also undermine the Board of Forestry's Climate Change and Carbon Plan for our state forests. The bill would require our state forests to be managed only to maximize profits for the timber industry.

ODF would be required to maximize harvest levels in our state forests based on the "net present value." This means our state forests would become tree farms rather than forests. It would mean more clearcuts with devastating effects not only on our forest ecosystems, but also on our water resources including drinking water, and on fish and other wildlife and their habitat, and on our local economies.

Unlike the HCP and the Climate Change and Carbon Plan, HB 4106 completely disregards and would run over the values shared by Oregonians - preservation of our forest ecosystems with wildlife and habitat, clean drinking water, and use of forests for recreation, carbon absorption and storage and other economic uses such as tourism, fishing, and the like. Logging has a role but it must be limited to allow state forests to be managed for all of these values that benefit all Oregonians and also as a growing resource in the effort to mitigate climate change.

This bill has no obvious purpose other than to increase profits for timber companies. This bill is not about creating jobs as there are fewer and fewer logging jobs because of automation (though timber production generally has remained strong). It's also not about funding local governments. The fees provided to local governments from logging in state forests are limited. Local governments as well as whole communities, workers, and families have actually been devastated by the many and massive tax breaks given to the timber industry in the past. For more information on the long history of tax cuts given to the timber industry and its Wall Street investors and the devastating effects on our communities, workers, and families, [please read the investigation by ProPublica, Oregon Public Broadcasting and The Oregonian/OregonLive](#). It would be of greater benefit to local governments and our communities and families to restore some of these taxes.

How much more of our forest resources are we going to give away to timber companies? Let's at least draw the line at our state forests. Please vote no to HB 4106.

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