

Submitter: Elizabeth Byrd

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and
Water

Measure: HB4106

I strongly oppose HB 4106. If passed, this bill would undermine the state forest plan to conserve crucial fish and wildlife habitat and would result in more clearcuts, less habitat, and more timber industry lawsuits. This is another last ditch attempt by the strong Timber Industry in Oregon to take as much as possible from our precious state forests.

This bill would require the Department of Forestry to maximize logging in state forests at the expense of all other values — including clean water, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, and carbon storage. HB 4106 would require the Department of Forestry to justify every tree protected under the Habitat Conservation Plan. It would even allow the timber industry to sue the state to force more clearcuts on state forests. I attended a meeting recently regarding the NorthWest Forest Plan, and out about 60 plus participants only one (from the timber industry) thought that logging should be increased. Every other Oregonian was asking to stop clearcuts, reduce logging in sensitive areas, increase protections on old and mature growth forests and protect endangered species including salmon. Please stop this madness and don't let this bill pass out of committee.