

Submitter: Serena Lim

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB4106

I strongly oppose HB 4106. It appears this bill is intended to undermine the state forest plan to conserve crucial fish and wildlife habitat, resulting in more clearcuts, less habitat, and more timber industry lawsuits. Please don't let this bill pass out of committee.

As a design professional in the building industry who cares deeply about sustainability, I wholeheartedly support the Habitat Conservation Plan, and I applaud efforts by the Board of Forestry and Department of Forestry staff to begin restoring balance to our state forests by finalizing a strong Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for Western Oregon State Forests. Securing an HCP will improve protections for salmon streams, imperiled wildlife, water quality and recreation, while still providing a steady supply of logs to local mills. A strong HCP will also improve carbon storage and sequestration to help combat the effects of climate change.

As a design professional, I see the cost impacts and challenges our clients and partners in the building industry face due to increased regulation, but we need to work together to navigate, and take responsibility for, the ecological challenges created by centuries of industrialized development and consumerism. We need to adopt a longer-term mindset and prioritize protecting vital forest ecosystems and conserving natural resources. As a member of the construction industry, I welcome regulation that brings our activities into greater harmony and balance with the ecosystems on which we rely.

Please do the right thing and reject HB 4106, which seeks to undermine all of the collaborative hard work and efforts made to adopt a longer-term perspective and sustainable plan for managing Oregon's forests.