Submitter: Jen Hamaker

On Behalf
        Of:

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

Measure: HB4106

I love Oregon's forests for many reasons. For generations my family were stewards of our forests, clean, cold water ran from our streams from which our horses drank, wildlife was abundant and healthy and we built roads, culverts, we aerial sprayed after replant, etc. Then we had to sell our timberlands because of the current and future restrictions on forest management.

Some of our timberland was destroyed in the Labor Day fire. Every year our entire crew is on high alert 24/7 in case of fire. We spent $ millions on fire mitigation and suppression as well as contributing money, gear, personal, and equipment to help put out fires.

I've been fighting against the Western HCP for years. I've also been fighting against the Private Forest Accord's HCP - there is no proven science that shows listed species benefit from increasing habitat to the point of destruction. Between 1952-1987 Oregon experienced 1 fire in excess of 10,000 acres, but this is when we managed our forests. Today, we average 650,000 acres that go up in smoke annually. The difference between then and now, proper forest management.

We have more trees now than 100 years ago. We have studies showing the cleanest water from any industry comes from the forests before, during, and after harvest operations, riparian buffers are already sufficient however the bigger they grow the less light the water gets and the less the fish have to eat. We replant after harvest. We build and maintain roads with the least amount of environmental impact as possible. We care about our fish and wildlife. We love nature.

There is a balance, and we already know what that balance is and how to achieve it.

ODF has an issue with over promising and under delivering. Our forests are precious.

I support HB 4106 because it would make sure decisions made by the Board in the future are based on accurate and transparent data and creates accountability for data projections.

This is a good governance bill – I urge your support.

Sincerely,
Jen Hamaker