

Submitter: Cindy Smith

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB4106

Chair Helm and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water:

As an advocate for Oregon's forests, I thank you for hearing HB 4106 and encourage your support.

By now it's clear the Oregon Board of Forestry advanced a Habitat Conservation Plan based on inaccurate data — data that over-projected state timber harvest by more than 30%. We now know this decision will cost timber dependent counties millions of dollars in lost revenue.

The reduced harvest levels will also require the Legislature allocate up to \$30 million per biennium in General Fund dollars to subsidize the Department's operating budget – which has always been sustainably self-funded through timber revenue.

This legislation would ensure going forward, the Oregon Department of Forestry creates reliable, transparent data with accountability when they make decisions. The bill does not require the Department manage the lands in any particular way. It only requires the Department tell the public what they intend to do, and then requires the Department do what it said.

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