

Submitter: Jim Axling

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB4106

I oppose HB 4106. TRULY sustainable forest management, including for predictable timber/lumber harvests, must include ALL the values provided by our state forests - not to only/primarily maximize timber/lumber harvests and their predictability (as proposed in this bill). That being the case, it's clear that this bill has no interest in actual sustainability, as it instead proposes to undermine existing and future state forest plans to conserve crucial fish and wildlife habitat and provide/support other uses/purposes/values of our forests in addition to harvesting timber.

Rather than providing stability for rural communities, it seems to me that this bill proposes to escalate conflict by legislating that one use (harvest) be prioritized/maximized beyond all other uses - including plenty of uses (e.g. fishing, hunting, recreation) that our rural communities enjoy at least as much as all Oregonians do. The result of such conflict (e.g. lawsuits by those seeking to restore some balance in the face of such a one-sided piece of legislation) would actually be less predictability, not more.

Please do not waste the legislature's time on this foolhardy and counter-productive bill - please do not let this bill pass out of committee.