

Submitter: Anne-Marie Eklund

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB4106

I am concerned about HB 4106 because it would mandate the ODF to set timber harvest targets on state forests to maximize timber harvest over all other values, including clean water, wildlife habitat, and recreation. This bill represents a marked change in how our state forests are managed and it is deeply concerning to me. We need to be very cautious in managing our state forests to make sure that we are considering the needs of wildlife and the health of our watersheds. Of additional concern to me is the clause that the timber industry can sue if harvest targets are not achieved. This aspect of this bill is particularly disturbing to me and turns our beautiful Oregon forests into nothing better than tree farms. More and more research has been conducted in the past 20-30 years that supports the management of forests to consider them as part of an ecosystem. Failure to do so sets us up for disastrous effects, particularly in light of the climate crisis. Sustainable forest management must consider watershed health, carbon budgets, and wildlife habitat in order to be successful in the long term.