

House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water Committee,  
Chair Ken Helm and Members of the committee:

Thank you Chair Helm for your patience to accomplish the connection for my oral testimony. I offer the following extended statement for the hearing record.

Thank you for taking this testimony providing a basis for rejecting HB 4106.

I am Trygve Steen, a resident of Portland. I bring to this issue deep experience on the implications of this legislation for management of our State Forests. For more than 45 years, I have engaged in teaching university courses focused on Sustainability in relation to how we take environmentally related actions, especially for forest management related decisions. I have also extensively studied the activities of the Oregon Department of Forestry as they have managed State Forest Lands for decades.

I have participated, over many decades, in the planning processes for the Board of Forestry and the Oregon Department of Forestry. The integrity of their citizen input processes are indispensable for providing many public and expert inputs for the management of Oregon's State Forests. I have been impressed as the recent Board of Forestry struggles with the complex equities involved in their decisions. HB 4106 effectively subverts these important public input processes with its guarantees of logs for the timber industry.

A major thrust of my input has been the need for the state forests to be a balancing anchor (effectively an insurance policy) for the short rotation forest management of private forests. Short Rotation private forest management has been a huge and risky experiment for Oregon's forests and is something dangerously promoted by this HB4106. Oregon's State Forests need to be managed differently.

Private forest management has been severely impacting biodiversity, as well as water quality and quantity for both humans and salmon habitat, plus the ability of our state's forests to responsibly sequester carbon dioxide in order to mitigate the impacts of climate change. I have been deeply disturbed by ODF logging of older stands of trees that are at their prime for carbon dioxide fixation, when they should have been left to continue their especially effective carbon dioxide fixation. ODF should not be forced into doing excessive logging in the future.

At long last, forest management planning for state forests includes a Habitat Conservation Area component that will be a major step forward toward improving Oregon's State Forest Management. This needs to be more effectively supported.

HB4106 is clearly a major and damaging end-run to avoid current achievements of State Forest planning processes and appears to be a direct attack on the vitally important Habitat Conservation Area planning that is now in progress. The Habitat Conservation Area plan has significant environmental benefits, as it will increase important biodiversity protections, as well as protections for water quality and quantity for both humans and salmon habitat, plus the ability of our state's forests to responsibly sequester carbon dioxide in order to mitigate the impacts of climate change. The HCP process will also protect future logging plans by minimizing the interruptions that will be caused by new endangered species designations.

We face the need for pursuing increasingly complex approaches to accomplish "sustainable" forest management, because of the accelerating rate of climate change. The impacts of climate change are very likely to make the following SECTION 9 procedure highly damaging. "SECTION 9. (1) If, at the end of a five-year period for a sustainable harvest level, the volume of timber harvested from the available land and offered for sale is less than the sustainable harvest level, the State Forester shall offer for sale the additional timber during the next five-year period, in addition to the sustainable harvest level applicable during the next five-year period." Making this kind of a guarantee for "harvest" level fundamentally violates the principle of "greatest permanent value" for Oregon's state forest lands.

Thanks for your attention to the above vitally important issues.

I therefore could not more strongly oppose HB 4106.  
Please do not allow this bill to pass out of committee.

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