

Submitter: Emily Mathew

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

I am writing to oppose House Bill 4105. I am an Oregonian whom, like countless others, identify with Oregon's many breath taking natural features. In complex times, the knowledge that our natural heritage, that of rugged coastlines, uplifting mountains, and thriving forests, is a stable, secure resource we can draw upon for renewal, inspiration and recreation is a priceless attribute of being an Oregonian. The assurance that these resources will continue to provide our children and grandchildren with these same benefits provides a deep sense of well being to Oregonians, the value of which is priceless. In an era of unprecedented upheaval and conflict across our nation, the stable foundation these natural resources provide is critical in combatting the pervasiveness of anxiety and depression amongst the populace. Time spent in nature is the best antidote to the modern scourge of mental health decline. Therefor it is incumbent upon us to use the utmost caution and conservative consideration when making decisions about the fate of our natural resources. To maintain thriving, diverse forests requires ongoing care and careful consideration around forestry practices. HB 4105 does not achieve this aim, but jeopardizes the implementation of the western State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan, whose mandate is to protect the forest in a way that facilitates the species diversity of trees, plants, birds, mammals and fishes, all of which is necessary to ensure the continued biological success of our Oregonian State forests. HB 4105 would prioritize logging over wildlife, profits over sustainability, and would result in the continued and irreversible decline of our natural heritage. This is short sighted, and is not acceptable. Stand up for the health, happiness and prosperity of all Oregonians. Oppose HB 4105