

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, and Members of the Committee,

I oppose House Bill 4105 and its amendments. This timber industry bill undermines the state forest habitat conservation plan and would result in more clearcuts, more lawsuits, less habitat for salmon and wildlife, and less carbon storage.

I urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, I encourage this committee to focus on measures that would increase carbon storage in our state forests and safeguard our public resources for our children and future generations.

The Oregon of the future that I want to see prioritizes forest protection and over logging. It values the clean air, clean water, and good habitat for our forest neighbors over short term economic gain. Oregon State Forests drive a massive \$550M outdoor economy, support 10,500+ jobs, are home to six salmon stronghold rivers, home to 17 endangered or at-risk species, and provide clean drinking water for 500,000 people. My views are shared by a majority of Oregonians - polling conducted in 2022 by the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center show strong support for resource protection on state forests.

Please don't let this bill pass out of committee.

*Sincerely,
Ruth Howell*