

Submitter: Sonia Isotov
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

Dear House members, please do not vote for the HB 4105 bill. Do the next right thing and help save our natural resources for future generations, if not this generation.

Here's why:

HB 4105 is a Timber Industry Bill That Would
Increase industrial clearcut logging on Oregon's public lands. HB 4105 requires the state forester to establish
10-year logging levels, in annual increments, set through rulemaking. This would
create additional pressure on
the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to increase harvest levels at the expense
of natural resource values
cherished by Oregonians.

Upset the balanced management on state forests by elevating logging over other
values. By establishing a
mandatory harvest rule, the bill would elevate logging over clean air and water, fish
and wildlife habitat, carbon
storage and recreation. It would limit the state forester's and the Board of Forestry's
ability to protect public
resources and prevent the ODF from implementing its Climate Change and Carbon
Plan. The bill would only
require consideration, not compliance, with the Habitat Conservation Plan and other
policies that protect clean
water, fish and wildlife habitat and carbon capture.

HB 4105 is an Expensive waste of taxpayers' and ODF time and money
Leads to increased litigation. The bill would create a new right for timber companies,
counties and tax districts
to sue the ODF for alleged violations of the timber harvest rule, creating endless
litigation and limiting the
ODF's ability to manage state forests for multiple values. Further, limiting who has
the right to sue may be
unconstitutional.

This bill is expensive. Based on 2025 fiscal impact estimates from an identical bill,
implementation would
require \$1.1 million of initial funding to start this program. The new right to sue the
ODF would also cost the
state significant resources in ODF and DOJ staff time and legal fees, estimated to
upward of ten million dollars

per biennium.

HB 4105 is Unnecessary

The State Forester already sets sustainable harvest levels consistent with the mandate to manage state forests for “Greatest Permanent Value” for all Oregonians and reports this to the public. The ODF has exceeded its harvest objectives over the past 10 years.

Revenues from state forests are expected to increase over the next ten years. The ODF is currently evaluating plans, with the support of timber dependent counties, to increase timber harvest and revenue from state forests for the next ten years in a way that is consistent with the state forest Habitat Conservation Plan.

Sincerely,

Sonia Isotov