

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

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

We oppose House Bill 4105. This timber industry bill prioritizes timber production over other forest values on state forests. It 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.

The bill is unnecessary. The Department of Forestry regularly meets or exceeds its timber harvest goals, often at the expense of clean water, habitat for fish and wildlife and carbon storage goals. It's expensive. The state can't afford unneeded legislation with a large fiscal impact, especially with the current fiscal crisis. It would lead to more costly litigation.

The bill creates a new right to sue the Department of Forestry. It would only allow recipients of timber revenue access to the courts to challenge implementation of the timber harvest rule.

We urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, we 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. Please don't let this bill pass out of committee.