

Submitter: John Wert

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

I strongly oppose HB4105, which would require the Department of Forestry to pass a timber harvest rule that would prioritize clearcutting timber to the exclusion of all other values -such as clean water, fish habitat, wildlife habitat, recreation, and carbon absorption/storage. Clearcutting is a silvicultural practice involving the removal of most or all trees in an area to facilitate even-aged timber regeneration, often used for sunlight-loving species, however in this case it is to support commercial lumber interests. While efficient, it causes significant ecological disruption, including habitat loss, reduced biodiversity, increased soil erosion, and higher water temperatures. Regulations very often require riparian buffers to mitigate environmental damage. HB4105 would also create a special right for recipients of timber revenues (commercial lumber interests) to SUE the Department of Forestry to force MORE logging in state forests. It also threatens to undermine the implementation of the State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan and the Change and Carbon Plan for state forests. There are NO ecological benefits to be obtained by this bill. The ONLY benefits would be derived by commercial lumber interests. Not a very strong argument for passing HB4105.