

Submitter: Elizabeth Fox
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,

I oppose House Bill 4105. This timber industry bill prioritizes timber production over other forest values on state forests, when we already are seeing a glut of timber at our mills.

Even though there's been a steady decline in exports over the past decade, private timber

interests are chomping at the bit to reverse that trend, to keep our lumber prices high. Allowing harvesters to cut more and more and disregard current ODF regulations doesn't serve any function except to line the pockets of Wall Street investors.

HB 4105 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.

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.

Please don't let this bill pass out of committee. Thanks for your support.