

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

I 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. That just doesn't make good sense.

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. Why are we wasting taxpayer considering this bill? It should have never made it to this point.

It's expensive. The state can't afford unneeded legislation with a large fiscal impact, especially with the current fiscal crisis. Have you noticed how many people are against more taxes? How are you going to explain wasting money to them?

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. People want Oregon forests to remain beautiful places for recreation, wildlife habitat, and healthy waterways. I really wish the legislature would spend time on the issues that matter to Oregonians and not wasting time on excuses to cave to the greed of businesses.

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