

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

Dear Members of the Committee,

I oppose House Bill 4105. I've lived in Washington and Oregon all my life. My family deeply values our beautiful Oregon forests, not only for recreation and beauty, but for their ability to provide us with clean air, water, valuable habitat and carbon sequestration.

I oppose this bill for several reasons. First, this bill prioritizes logging over all other forest values on state forests. It undermines the state forest Habitat Conservation Plan and would lead to more clearcuts, more industry lawsuits, less habitat for fish and wildlife, and less carbon storage on state public forests.

The bill is unnecessary. The Department of Forestry already has processes in place to establish timber harvest goals and regularly meets or exceeds those goals, often at the expense of water quality, imperiled species, and carbon storage.

The bill is expensive. It would require costly rulemaking and lead to non-stop litigation the state would have to defend against at taxpayer expense. The bill creates a new, special right for the timber industry to sue the Department of Forestry to force more logging on state forests. The state can't afford unneeded legislation with an enormous fiscal impact.

Please join me in valuing our forests above industry profits. While logging is necessary, we should never forget that our forests provide so much more value for the public as mature ecosystems than they do as toilet paper and 2x4s. Forests provide us with clean air, clean water, essential habitat and recreational opportunities that are unique in the world. We must always be careful to weigh these public interests against the more narrow interests of the logging industry when we evaluate potential bills. I don't believe this bill is in the public interest and I ask you not to pass this bill.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Amanda Bott