

Submitter: Dennis Kasunic

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 strongly oppose House Bill 4105. This legislation is designed to elevate logging above every other value our state forests provide. It weakens the state forest Habitat Conservation Plan and would accelerate clearcutting, invite increased industry-driven litigation, degrade fish and wildlife habitat, and reduce the capacity of our public forests to store carbon.

House Bill 4105 is also wholly unnecessary. The Department of Forestry already has clear, established processes for setting timber harvest targets and consistently meets—or exceeds—those goals. Too often, those targets are achieved at the expense of clean water, vulnerable species, and climate resilience. This bill does nothing to improve forest management; it simply tilts the balance further toward extraction.

The fiscal consequences are equally troubling. The bill would trigger costly rulemaking and open the door to constant litigation, all funded by taxpayers. It grants the timber industry a special new right to sue the Department of Forestry to compel additional logging. At a time of tight budgets and competing priorities, the state cannot afford legislation that creates unnecessary expense and legal exposure.

I urge you to reject House Bill 4105. Instead, I ask this committee to pursue policies that strengthen carbon storage, protect fish and wildlife habitat, and preserve our state forests and waterways as public assets for generations to come.

Please do not allow this bill to move forward out of committee.