

Submitter:

Wendy Schwall

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

Dear Co-chairs Helm and Owen, Vice chair McDonald and Members of the Committee,

I urge you to oppose House Bill 4105. It is unnecessary, expensive, and above all would prioritize logging over all other forest values.

The bill is unnecessary because the Department of Forestry already has a process for establishing timber harvest goals. It is my understanding that they have met or exceeded these goals over the past ten years! We don't need more logging on our State forests.

The bill is expensive. It opens the door for litigation. This bill gives the timber industry special rights to sue the ODF over logging levels at taxpayer expense! It would put pressure on the Oregon Department of Forestry to allow more logging and clear cutting on State forests. This bill could potentially be illegal as it would not mandate compliance with the Habitat Conservation Plan.

This brings me to what I think is the overriding reason to oppose this bill: destruction of fish and wildlife habitat, decreasing carbon storage, (trees are the lungs of the earth), and pollution of our waterways. Clean water is vital to humans, fish and wildlife. The State Forester is mandated to manage our forests with the Greatest Permanent Value for all Oregonians. This includes water quality, habitat, carbon storage and recreational value.

In conclusion I ask you to oppose this bill and not let it out of Committee. Instead, please focus on measures that would increase carbon storage on our State forests, and that would safeguard and protect our waterways, our air, fish and wildlife habitat, and recreational values, for now and for future generations. Our state forests are precious!

Please oppose HB 4105!

Sincerely,

Wendy Schwall