

Submitter: Gabriela Hernandez

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 logging more than our native species, clean water, and carbon storage for state forests. It undermines the state forest Habitat Conservation Plan and would lead to more clearcuts and industry lawsuits while damaging habitats for our dear native wildlife.

HB 4105 is incredibly unnecessary and expensive. 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 aforementioned water quality, native species, and carbon storage. Additionally, it would require costly rulemaking and lead to frequent litigation that the state would have to defend against at taxpayer expense. The bill lets the timber industry log our beautiful state forests with no regard for imminent harm.

I urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, I encourage this committee to focus on measures that would increase carbon storage on our state forests and keep our public state forests and waterways safe, saving our younger generations from the detrimental impacts of habitat loss and climate change. As a college student here in Oregon, I am at the beginning of my life. As the younger generations, we will feel the most detrimental effects of this careless legislation.

Please don't let this bill pass out of committee. The future will not forgive you.