

Submitter: Kristin Conrad-Antoville

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, and Members of the Committee,

I oppose House Bill 4105 and its amendments. This bill would prioritize clearcutting Oregon forests over other critical values such as clean drinking water, clean air, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation. Our state forests are worth more standing — it is unacceptable to prioritize timber harvest over all the other values these forests offer .

This bill would result in more lawsuits and could cost the state millions of dollars. This bill would also result in more clearcuts and less habitat for vulnerable fish and wildlife. It would lead to less mature and old-growth forests, and less carbon storage on the landscape at a time when climate change is becoming more severe (example of climate change impact you are experiencing). This bill does not represent the public lands vision I want my elected leaders to support.

HB 4105 would force the Department of Forestry to prioritize timber harvest over all other values on state forest land:

- It would have a negative impact on clean drinking water, salmon and wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration and recreation.
- The bill would undermine protection for 17 species of salmon and wildlife that are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.
- It would also undermine ODF's ability to implement its Climate Change and Carbon Plan (Climate Plan). HB 4105 requires a rule establishing 10-year harvest levels that would override the Climate Plan.
- The harvest rule could also undermine the Governor's Executive Order 25-26 to preserve an additional 10% of Oregon's land and waters in ten years, with state forests leading by example.
- HB 4105 would result in more litigation by creating a new right to sue the ODF over state forest timber harvest plans and to obtain court orders that effectively compel more clearcuts on public land. This could cost the state millions of dollars.

Let us remember the value of Oregon's state forests:

- Western Oregon holds more than 600,000 acres of state forestlands, from the Santiam to the Tillamook and Clatsop, the outskirts of Salem and Portland to the Pacific Coast.
- Our forests support clean flowing rivers for salmon, critical habitat for a wide range of wildlife, recreation areas, and a robust outdoor economy.

- Drive a massive \$550M outdoor economy and support 10,500+ jobs
- Are home to six salmon stronghold rivers and 17 endangered or at-risk species
- Provide clean drinking water for 500,000+ people

The State Forester already sets sustainable harvest levels consistent with the mandate to manage state forests for “Greatest Permanent Value” for all Oregonians and reports this to the public. The ODF has exceeded its harvest objectives over the past 10 years. The bill would create a new right for timber companies, counties and tax districts

to sue the ODF for alleged violations of the timber harvest rule, creating endless litigation and limiting the ODF’s ability to manage state forests for multiple values.

It is important to protect mature and old-growth (legacy) forests in Oregon:

- Oregon’s mature and old-growth forests (also called legacy forests) are widely recognized for their essential role in fighting climate change, protecting watershed integrity, and safeguarding fish and wildlife. Decades of logging have left a severe deficit of old-growth forests on Oregon’s state lands.
- Mature and old-growth legacy forests in Oregon’s temperate rain forest region are well positioned to survive the disturbance-enhancing effects of climate change, including wildfires.

I urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, I encourage this committee to focus on measures that would protect Oregon legacy forests, safeguard fish and wildlife, and protect communities drinking water for our children and future generations. Please oppose this bill and ensure it does not pass out of committee.

Sincerely,
Kristin Conrad-Antoville and Anthony Antoville
Beaverton, OR