

Submitter: Jared Kennedy

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 increase logging on Oregon forests, an outcome that is not in the best interest of Oregonians and is not in line with the values of the vast majority of Oregonians. Many public opinion surveys demonstrate that Oregonians support increasing environmental protections and ensuring our forests offer recreation opportunities balanced with habitat protections for species threatened from a changing climate. Our forests are a buffer against climate change. In the face of a changing climate, we should be making Oregon's forests an example of how to rethink forest management for the future, not as a giveaway to timber companies or a basis for providing financial support for struggling communities. It is time that we develop a model for the future rather than trying (and failing) to prop up the insufficient and detrimental economic development models of the past.

Oregon's own climate scientists and ecologists, as well as decades of economic and sociological research, have enumerated the many benefits our intact forests provide for humans and wildlife. Many scientific reports have also demonstrated that industrial logging is one of the largest contributors to climate emissions in Oregon. Keeping as much of our forests standing as possible is one of the lowest hanging fruits available in our beautiful state to support the transition to a lower-carbon future. While Oregon is limited in the available actions it can take to support maintaining forest cover on private land, on public land the State has the ability to reduce the amount of acres that are logged and to invest in and identify mechanisms to reduce or eliminate the financial impacts that reduced timber harvests would cause to the more timber-dependent counties.

I join with the vast majority of Oregonians who oppose increased logging in this state. Please join me by opposing this bill and ensure it does not pass out of committee.

Sincerely,
Jared Kennedy