

Submitter: Wendy Wagner

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

HB 4105 is a colossal waste of tax-payers' money and state employee time. We already pay for a State Forester to make scientifically informed decisions about the timber harvest levels within our state forests -- we should not be creating legislation that micromanages the position with inflexible, ill-considered rule and regulations. Forests change from year-to-year, and their management demands more nimble decision-making than this legislation would allow for.

Moreover, this bill opens the door to massive lawsuits that will cost the state millions. We are already in a funding crisis: Why make it worse?

Our state forests are important economic drivers for the state of Oregon, and not simply because of timber cutting. We should not prioritize timber production over other industries that rely on our forests. We are working desperately to preserve the habitat of endangered salmon, protect our dwindling drinking water supplies, and keep our homes safe from wildfire -- all situations proven to be made worse by timber cutting. We shouldn't be undercutting our goals as a state just to keep timber companies happy.

This bill is a waste of our taxpayer money and will hurt Oregonians. It should not be allowed out of committee.