

Submitter: Dan Jaffee

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

Dear Committee Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice Chair McDonald, and Committee Members:

I am writing to strongly oppose House Bill 4105. This bill, promoted by the timber industry, is an affront to Oregon's environmental and forest management policy progress. This bill will prioritize logging over all other forest values on state forests. It undermines the state forest Habitat Conservation Plan and would lead to more clearcuts, more industry lawsuits, less habitat for fish and wildlife, and less carbon storage on state public forests.

This bill is unnecessary. The Department of Forestry already has processes in place to establish timber harvest goals. It regularly meets or exceeds those goals, often at the expense of water quality, imperiled species, and carbon storage. The bill is also expensive. It would require costly rule-making, and it will lead to endless litigation that the state would have to defend against at taxpayer expense. Frighteningly, HB 4105 would create a new, special right for the timber industry to sue the Department of Forestry to force more logging on state forests. Oregon simply cannot afford such destructive legislation with an enormous negative fiscal impact.

I urge you to oppose HB 4105, and instead to focus on developing measures to increase carbon storage on our state forests and safeguard public state forests and waterways for wildlife habitat and recreation for current and future generations.

Please don't let this bill pass out of committee. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Dan Jaffee