

Submitter: Kelly Northway

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 i The 2026 Oregon legislative session is chugging along and a bill that would increase logging levels and set a dangerous precedent for non-stop timber industry litigation. This bill would weaken protections for Oregon's public state forests. The bill would require the state Department of Forestry to establish a timber harvest rule that prioritizes logging over fish and wildlife habitat, carbon storage, and recreation. It could hinder the agency's implementation of the state forest Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). It would put drinking water for the half-million Oregonians who rely on state forest watersheds at further risk.

As if this all isn't bad enough, this year's bill would also grant the timber industry a special right to sue the state over logging levels. This would not only result in enormous litigation costs for the state (paid for by Oregon taxpayers), but would allow the timber industry to effectively force more clearcuts on state forests.