

Submitter: Ben Stickney

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 am submitting testimony in opposition to House Bill 4105. I am concerned that this timber industry bill disproportionately prioritizes the logging of state forests over all other forest management values. The bill 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.

Adding to the list of reasons above, the bill is just not necessary. The Department of Forestry already has processes in place to establish timber harvest goals and regularly meets or exceeds those goals, often at the expense of water quality, imperiled species, and carbon storage even now.

The bill will also be costly for the state and taxpayers - this is not what Oregonians want at a time of rapid inflation and rising costs of basic goods. It would require costly rulemaking and would create a new, special right for the timber industry to sue the Department of Forestry to force more logging on state forests. The state can't afford the fiscal impact on unneeded legislation.

I urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, I encourage this committee to focus on measures that would improve the climate resilience and inherent ecological value of our state forests to safeguard our forests and waterways for current and future generations.

Please don't let this bill pass out of committee.