

Submitter: Colleen McCaffrey
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

I oppose House Bill 4105 and its amendments. This bill would prioritize clearcutting Oregon forests over other critical values such as clean drinking water, clean air, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation. Our state forests are worth more standing — it is unacceptable to prioritize timber harvest over all the other values these forests offer .

In my decades of hiking and enjoying Oregon woodlands and forests I have seen the utter degradation of our woods by clear cutting, and the disappearance of old growth forests. A trip by commercial jet liner over the State of Oregon reveals the awful visual of clear cutting like a mouth devoid of teeth.

This bill would result in more lawsuits and could cost the state millions of dollars.

This bill would also result in more clearcuts and less habitat for vulnerable fish and wildlife. It would lead to less mature and old-growth forests, and less carbon storage on the landscape at a time when climate change is becoming more severe (example of climate change impact you are experiencing). This bill does not represent the public lands vision I want my elected leaders to support.

I urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, I encourage this committee to focus on measures that would protect Oregon legacy forests, safeguard fish and wildlife, and protect communities drinking water for our children and future generations.

Please oppose this bill and ensure it does not pass out of committee.

Sincerely,
Colleen McCaffrey