

Submitter: Nikki Dennis
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, and Members of the Committee,

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 .

State forests, to me, represent a place to recharge and engage with nature in a state we are entrusted with protecting for tomorrow. Forests are important to those who live in Oregon, like me, those who visit here, and to all the wildlife who live in these forests and raise their own families there. They, specifically, are part of the ecosystems that make Oregon such an amazing place and provide us with forest health which is good for all of us. Please do not take that away from them or from us.

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 strongly 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,
Nikki Dennis