

Submitter: Roarke Ball

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

I'm writing in opposition of 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 .

I moved to Southern Oregon almost 30 years ago because I love the forests in the area. The beauty they bring to Oregon is not matched anywhere else. The wildlife they support is invaluable. Where I live in the Applegate Valley, our forests are being decimated by logging projects leaving 3-5 trees per acre. They claim to be removing dead or dying trees when in fact they are taking more living trees than anything else. The forests here will never recover due to climate change.

This bill would result in more lawsuits and could cost the state millions of dollars. This bill will 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. We are currently experiencing an extremely dry winter. 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.