

Submitter: Mallory Pratt

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 .

As someone who owns property in Columbia County and has worked with state foresters to develop and test educational materials for high school students about Forestry, I understand the importance of forest products to our state's economy. I also know that indiscriminate use of clearcutting destroys water supplies, increases soil loss from erosion and ignores the value of forest ecosystems to the larger goals of climate change mitigation. This bill is a blatant attack on sustainable forest management practices and would undercut all of the measures Oregon has set to safeguard a healthy future for all who live here.

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

This bill would 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; witness the current nearly-snowless winter we are experiencing that will likely mean a return to severe drought status for most of the counties in Oregon by this summer. 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,
Mallory Pratt
Portland & Vernonia