

Submitter: Jessica Vaughan

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,

HB 4105 is a misguided and dangerous attempt to force increased industrial clearcut logging on Oregon's public lands, undermining decades of balanced forest management. By mandating fixed 10-year logging levels through rulemaking, the bill elevates timber harvest above all other public values and strips the State Forester and Board of Forestry of the flexibility needed to manage forests responsibly in a changing climate. This rigid approach prioritizes short-term extraction over clean air and water, fish and wildlife habitat, carbon storage, recreation, and public safety—values that Oregon's state forests are legally and morally obligated to protect

The bill would also directly weaken Oregon's climate and conservation commitments. HB 4105 would limit the Oregon Department of Forestry's ability to implement its Climate Change and Carbon Plan and would require only "consideration," not compliance, with the Habitat Conservation Plan and other safeguards that protect salmon, endangered species, and drinking water. At a time when rising temperatures and altered stream conditions are already pushing salmon and wildlife toward extinction, increasing clearcut logging on public forests is reckless and out of step with science and public interest

HB 4105 is fiscally irresponsible and exposes the state to unnecessary risk. The bill creates new legal rights for timber companies and taxing districts to sue the Department of Forestry over harvest levels, inviting costly and ongoing litigation. Based on estimates from similar legislation, implementation would require roughly \$2 million in startup costs and an additional \$10 million per biennium in legal and administrative expenses—wasting taxpayer dollars while diverting staff time away from actual forest stewardship

Finally, this bill is entirely unnecessary. The State Forester already sets sustainable harvest levels consistent with the mandate to manage forests for the Greatest Permanent Value of all Oregonians, and the Department of Forestry has exceeded its harvest objectives over the past decade. Revenues from state forests are already projected to increase under existing planning processes developed with timber-dependent counties and consistent with conservation requirements. Oregon's state forests—over 600,000 acres—are economic powerhouses precisely because they remain intact, supporting a \$550 million outdoor economy, more than 10,500 jobs,

clean drinking water for over 500,000 people, and irreplaceable salmon habitat. HB 4105 threatens all of this for the benefit of a narrow industry interest, and it should be firmly rejected

Sincerely,  
Jessica Vaughan