

Submitter: Andrea Vandermolen
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:

I oppose HB 4105 for two main reasons. First, I don't think it makes sense for the logging industry to be able to sue the state over logging levels. This seems like something that would be wildly expensive for taxpayers because our money would have to fund the defense. Regardless of the outcome of a lawsuit, logging companies could drag the process on for years leading to huge expenses for the state. I understand the value of the logging industry in Oregon, but this just seems like an extremely reckless policy idea. Currently, the Department of Forestry sets sustainable harvest goals in line with the Habitat Conservation Plan and I think that is the better move long term.

My second reason for opposing this bill is that it's too favorable to the logging industry at a cost to the other stakeholders in Oregon's forests. Excess logging puts our clean water, clean air and access to the outdoors at risk. Healthy natural resources are valuable too. They save us money by supporting healthier people and earn money through tourism and outdoor sports. In order to reap these benefits, we have to protect their source.

Please don't let this bill pass out of committee. Thank you for your time.