

Submitter: Dianne Ensign

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 am a lifelong Oregonian and supporter of environmental protection, and I strongly oppose House Bill 4105. This timber industry bill prioritizes logging over all other forest values on state forests. Our forests do not need more clear-cutting. Our forests, particularly mature and old-growth trees, are worth more standing. Decades of logging have left an old-growth deficit, despite their essential role in fighting climate chaos, protecting watershed integrity, and safeguarding fish and wildlife.

I have deep concern about our era's climate chaos and extinction crises. This bill would have a negative impact on clean drinking water, salmon and wildlife habitat, and carbon sequestration, and would undermine protection for 17 species of salmon and wildlife that are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. It would also undermine ODF's ability to implement its Climate Change and Carbon Plan (Climate Plan). HB 4105 requires a rule establishing 10-year harvest levels that would override the Climate Plan.

This bill is unnecessary. The Department of Forestry already has processes in place to establish timber harvest goals and regularly meets or exceeds those goals, often at the expense of water quality, imperiled species, and carbon storage.

Please oppose this bill. Instead, I encourage this committee to focus on measures that would increase carbon storage on our state forests and safeguard public state forests and waterways for current and future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.