

Submitter: Erik Persmark

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 prioritizes clear-cutting over other critical values offered by the Oregon forests, for example clean drinking water, recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat. Our state forests are worth more standing than cut; it's short-sighted to prioritize timber harvest over all the other values.

The clear-cuts that would follow if the bill passes would jeopardize clean water supplies, reduce critical habitat for vulnerable fish and wildlife, and deprives the citizens of Oregon of recreational opportunities. In particular, any cutting of the few remaining tract of old-growth forests would be short-sighted given values of these biological and ecological reservoirs.

My family and I use our forests for hiking, foraging, wildlife watching and frequently as destinations when we have out-of-town visitors.

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,  
Erik Persmark