



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

Date: Feb. 11, 2026

To: [House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water](#)

Co-chairs [Rep. Helm](#), [Rep. Owens](#), Vice-chair [Finger McDonald](#)

Re: [HB 4105](#) – Set Timber Harvest Levels on State Forestland – OPPOSE

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) believes that ***“a full accounting of all costs, including cumulative ecological impacts of timber harvests and other forest uses must be considered in forest activity decisions.”*** Under current law in [ORS 530.050](#), “the State Forester shall manage State forestlands...so as to secure the greatest permanent value of those lands to the state...” and “do all things and make all rules, not inconsistent with law, necessary or convenient for the management, protection, utilization and conservation of the lands.” HB 4015 is identical to HB 3103-1 from 2025, except it removes the General Fund allocation. However, administering this policy change will be a cost burden on the Dept. of Forestry at a time when they can ill afford such expenditures.

This bill would greatly restrict that authority by requiring the State Forester to set inflexible sustainable timber harvest volume levels by rule, for a ten-year period with strict annual targets, that, if not met, would be added to the following year’s harvest levels. **Failing to do so, the Department of Forestry would be subject to civil lawsuits.** This bill puts managing forests for timber volume above all other forest values for “greatest permanent value,” such as for recreation, ecological services and carbon sequestration and storage. The State Forester can already set rules, but this bill would make it so that once forest level volumes are set by rule, they become law and cannot be changed without significant effort.

The Board of Forestry approved the [Climate Change and Carbon Plan \(CCCP\)](#) after careful deliberation and legal delay, and this bill would undermine the goals of that plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon to combat climate change, as well as those of the [Vision for Oregon’s Forests](#), which the LWVOR has supported. It would also undermine the [Habitat Conservation Plan \(HCP\)](#) and the work of the Adaptive Management committee which considers balancing all the values and conditions of our state forests. Our forests have more value to Oregonians than just a commodity sold to produce revenue.

We urge the Committee: do **not** pass this bill which would tie the hands of the State Forester to react as conditions change. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Handwritten signature of Barbara Klein in black ink.

Barbara Klein
Acting President LWVOR

Handwritten signature of Josie Koehne in black ink.

Josie Koehne
Forestry Advocate LWVOR

Handwritten signature of Claudia Keith in black ink.

Claudia Keith
Climate Emergency Coordinator

Cc: [Oregon Climate Action Commission](#), [Senior Natural Resources Advisor Geoffrey Huntington](#),