

Submitter: George Hutchinson
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,

My family and I oppose House Bill 4105. This bill appears to prioritize logging over all other forest values on state forests. We need much more mature forests in Oregon and no more tree plantations, particularly in mountainous regions. HB 4105 undermines the state forest Habitat Conservation Plan and would lead to more clearcuts, more industry lawsuits, less habitat for fish and wildlife, and less carbon storage on state public forests.

Why is this bill necessary--the OR 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? The answer is that this bill is not needed.

This bill is expensive and will cost Oregon taxpayers unnecessarily. It would require costly rulemaking and lead to non-stop litigation the state would have to defend against at taxpayer expense. The bill creates a new, special right for the timber industry to sue the Department of Forestry to force more logging on state forests. The state can't afford unneeded legislation with an enormous fiscal impact.

Please oppose this bill and kill it in committee. Instead, I encourage this committee to focus on measures that would increase carbon storage on our state forests, better protect those forest ecosystems and safeguard public state forests and waterways for current and future generations.

Please don't let this bill pass out of committee.

Sincerely,