

Submitter: Audrey Colombe  
On Behalf Of: Myself  
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

I oppose HB 4105 because it gives too much power to the logging industry and reduces the power of the state of Oregon and the people and creatures who live in the forest and who currently own it. This bill would force us into the exact WRONG DIRECTION as far as forest management and the interest of the state of Oregon. We need reasonable and multi-pronged approach to forest and resource management, not a one-sided money grab from an industry that is known to cause huge damage. I live in the forest, have had my home here for 50 years. I have watched federal administrations come and go (also "policies" and some really bad decisions-- and a few good ones). My interest is in the livability of our forest habitats (in my case, temperate rainforest) and the protection of ALL the inhabitants. I am not against forest products being harvested, but it has to be responsible--and HB 4105 is not. It weakens protections for Oregon's public state forests and would require the state Department of Forestry to establish a timber harvest rule that prioritizes logging over fish and wildlife habitat, carbon storage, and recreation. It would hinder the agency's implementation of the state forest Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) that is really the minimum of protection--and worth it. HB 4105 would put drinking water for the half-million Oregonians who rely on state forest watersheds at further risk--and there is no good reason, ever, to do such a thing. Believe me, we have watched and put up with some stupid stuff, but HB41-5 is really really dumb. Don't do it.