

Submitter:

Amy Hunter

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,

As a longtime Oregonian who values our incredible forests, the wildlife that calls it home and the benefits that we all derive from trees (clean air and water), I am writing in opposition to House Bill 4105 and its amendments. This bill would prioritize clearcutting Oregon forests over other critical resources. Our state forests are worth more standing — it is unacceptable to prioritize timber harvest over all the other values these forests offer. Stop the prioritization of wealth and extraction over nature.

I am an ardent hiker, backpacker and mountain biker, plus wildlife lover, and so in addition to the clean air and water, I also value the trails that our forests provide, and the ability to be in nature that hasn't been clearcut. This bill would result in more clearcuts and less habitat for vulnerable fish and wildlife. It would lead to less mature and old-growth forests, and less carbon storage on the landscape at a time when climate change is becoming more severe (example of climate change impact you are experiencing). 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,

Amy Hunter