

Submitter: Carrie Tilton-Jones
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or HB4105
Topic:

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice Chair McDonald and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for your attention and the opportunity to be heard on this important issue. I strongly oppose House Bill 4105. This timber industry bill prioritizes timber production over the rights of all Oregonians to enjoy our beautiful state forests and the critical value of forests for our environment. It undermines the state forest habitat conservation plan and would result in more clearcuts, more lawsuits, less habitat for salmon and wildlife, and less carbon storage.

The bill is unnecessary. The Department of Forestry regularly meets or exceeds its timber harvest goals, often at the expense of clean water, habitat for fish and wildlife, and carbon storage goals. Our family loves spending time in these forests, and we care deeply about air quality because our child has asthma. We want the state to care responsibly for these forests, not make it easier and more profitable for timber barons to destroy them.

It's expensive. The state can't afford unneeded legislation with a large fiscal impact, especially with the current fiscal crisis. We have so many more important priorities to spend our money on!

It would lead to more costly litigation. The bill creates a new right to sue the Department of Forestry. It would only allow recipients of timber revenue access to the courts to challenge implementation of the timber harvest rule.

I urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, I encourage this committee to focus on measures that would increase carbon storage in our state forests, preserve habitat for fish and wildlife, and safeguard our public resources for our children and future generations.

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