

Submitter: Mary Addams

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

I oppose House Bill 4105. This timber industry bill prioritizes logging over all other forest values on state forests. It 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.

Please don't let this bill out of committee.

The Department of Forestry already has processes in place to establish timber harvest goals often at the expense of water quality, imperiled species, and carbon storage. We've been putting a dollar value on nature but it will lead to our death in the long run, for our children and grandchildren. Our old forests are irreplaceable in our lifetimes. We have to save them from being logged. The big trees are needed to store carbon, and create rain and oxygen for all living things, including us! We haven't been getting our usual amount of rain for years.

This bill would require costly rulemaking and lead to non-stop litigation that 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.

I urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, I encourage this committee to focus on measures that would increase carbon storage on our state forests and safeguard public state forests and waterways for current and future generations.