

Submitter: Helena Birecki

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,

I oppose House Bill 4105. It's not ok to prioritize timber production over other forest values in state forests.

When I lived in Neskowin, a big concern of my water district was the sediment and heating of the water when areas are clearcut. It made it way more expensive to treat the water to make it potable, and reduced the volume of water that could be delivered-- a big danger to people's homes as fire seasons get more severe.

We literally cannot live without water.

We know that there are more logging jobs when logging companies have to do selective cutting rather than clearcutting. We know that mill jobs are not coming back even if the logging companies get to cut more timber-- did you hear that OPB report where the mill was trying to stay open but couldn't find workers who were physically fit enough to do the job?

In addition, a nearly identical bill last year had an estimated 2 million dollar fiscal for a plan that hurts average Oregonians and makes the Department of Forestry revisit plans it spent years dotting the i's and crossing the t's on. This is misguided in so many ways.

Don't undermine the state forest habitat conservation plan, hurt our salmon and wildlife, and mess up our water.

I think we can all agree that we want drinking and bathing water, oxygen, and a livable future. This bill imperils all of those. For our lives and futures, please vote No on HB 4105.

Sincerely,
Helena Birecki