

Submitter: Tina Bailey

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

Oregon's state forests are public lands held in trust for all Oregonians. They provide clean drinking water, fish and wildlife habitat, climate benefits through carbon storage, recreation opportunities, and long-term economic value. House Bill 4105 threatens this balance by pushing state forest management toward rigid timber harvest targets that prioritize logging over ecological health and public interest.

HB 4105 would require the State Forester to establish harvest levels that could be enforced through litigation. This approach risks undermining science-based, adaptive forest management and replacing it with inflexible mandates that do not adequately account for changing forest conditions, climate impacts, wildfire risk, or the needs of endangered species. Forests are dynamic systems, and management decisions should be driven by ecosystem health—not by harvest quotas enforceable in court.

I am particularly concerned that HB 4105 could weaken or conflict with conservation commitments such as the Western Oregon State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan. These plans were developed through years of public process to protect salmon, northern spotted owls, water quality, and other sensitive resources. Undercutting them would harm wildlife, degrade watersheds, and erode public trust.

State forests are also a critical part of Oregon's climate response. Increased or accelerated logging reduces carbon storage at a time when climate resilience should be a top priority. Healthy, intact forests help protect communities from flooding, extreme heat, and poor air quality—benefits that cannot be replaced once lost.

Finally, allowing lawsuits to compel timber harvest levels invites costly and unnecessary litigation, diverting public resources away from stewardship, restoration, and wildfire prevention. Oregon should be investing in resilient forest management, not creating new legal pressures that push forests toward overexploitation.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to vote NO on House Bill 4105 and instead support policies that protect Oregon's forests for future generations while balancing ecological, economic, and community needs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,