

Submitter: Kimberly Osberg

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,

I oppose House Bill 4105 and its amendments. Research has shown time and again that Oregonians value clean air & water and preservation of wildlife habitat over logging - which benefits only members of the timber industry. This is a blatant timber industry bill that undermines the state forest habitat conservation plan - encouraging clearcutting practices, opening the door for destructive lawsuits, and diminishing carbon storage and habitats for key wildlife like salmon.

Trees are more valuable to humans, wildlife, and the environment as trees than they are as timber. In a climate where we see an increase in wildfires, poorer air quality, and decreased protections for important wildlife species and resource areas, a bill like this is a massive mis-investment of nearly \$1.1 million dollars (the amount estimated to be needed to start this program based on fiscal impact estimates from a very similar bill defeated in 2025). Revenue from state forests are already expected to increase over 10 years with the current state forest habitat conservation plan. State Forests are more valuable to our state as intact forests than as lumbering sites, generating over a half a billion dollars in outdoor economic activity, a source for clean drinking water for half a million Oregonians, and supporting thousands of jobs. This bill is unnecessary and destructive.

I strongly urge you to oppose this bill. Please instead focus on measures that would safeguard our public resources and continue Oregon's legacy of being a leader in forest conservation and protections.

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

Sincerely,
Kimberly Osberg