

Submitter: Sarah Taylor
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 Committee Members,

I'm writing from Portland, OR, where the health of our forests, rivers, and wildlife is part of everyday life. I oppose House Bill 4105 because it:

- Prioritizes clear-cut timber over clean water, salmon habitat, recreation, and carbon storage.
- Undermines the State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan and the Climate Change and Carbon Plan the public has long supported and fought to protect.
- Creates a special right to sue the Department of Forestry, inviting costly litigation that diverts funds from essential public services.

In a fiscal crisis, we can't afford legislation that deepens legal battles and erodes natural capital. Our Department of Forestry already meets—or exceeds—its timber-harvest targets, often at the expense of the very ecosystem services Oregonians rely on such as clean water, air, cooling in the summer and rain for our crops.

Instead of pushing more clearcuts, I urge the committee to:

- Promote policies that increase the health and carbon sequestration in state forests.
- Safeguard water quality and protect salmon and wildlife habitats for future generations.

Please reject HB 4105 and keep Oregon's forests thriving for our children. Our ecosystems provide priceless services—clean water, clean air, healthy soil, and rain—that no market can replace.

Sincerely,
[Your Name] – Portland, OR