

Submitter: Becky Orf
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or HB4105
Topic:

Co-Chair Representative Helm, Co-Chair Representative Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly oppose House Bill 4105 and its amendments.

I often spend time in our beautiful forests and very much value the peace, clean water, clean air, respite, birds, and other wildlife they provide. I live in Ashland, which is more frequently experiencing times of unhealthy air and scarcity of drinking water—and I so appreciate how our forests help protect us from these and other threats to our environment and our health.

Oregon's forests are something that make our state so special. Our forests are places where Oregonians and visitors can connect with nature--including trees, the unique vegetation, and the birds and other wildlife they support. This bill would prioritize clearcutting Oregon forests over other critical values such as clean drinking water, clean air, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation. Currently, management of State Forests requires a balance of all these multiple values. The State Forester already sets sustainable harvest levels. This bill would significantly change the way state forests are managed. It is unacceptable to prioritize timber harvest over all the other values these forests offer.

This bill would very likely result in more lawsuits, years of litigation, and could cost taxpayers millions of dollars—and during times when so many other critical programs are facing severe cuts.

I urge you to oppose HB 4105.