

Submitter: Owen Wozniak

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

Committee Members, I would like to register my opposition to HB 4105. I support greater transparency and predictability in the management of state forests and could support this bill if that's all it contained. But mandating harvest levels and creating a pathway for litigation over these levels is contrary to ecological forest management and ignores the reality of our state forests -- namely, that they are recovering from decades of over-harvest and are now much more valuable as carbon sinks, habitat, and sources of clean drinking water for our communities. One cannot simply legislate harvest you want functioning and sustainable forests. We foreclosed that option decades ago through over-harvest. We now need to let our forests heal - and actively manage them for climate resilience. HB 4105 is not the right way to do so. Thank you.