February 10th, 2026

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water
From: Sally Schoolmaster

To: Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in opposition to House Bill 4105 and its amendments. This bill would prioritize clearcutting Oregon forests over other critical values such as clean drinking water, clean air, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation. Now more than ever, our state forests are worth more standing and it is unacceptable to prioritize timber harvest over all the other values these forests offer.

I have lived in Oregon since 1979. The main reason I moved here was because of the geographical beauty and access to hiking and camping. We are already losing much of this access because of wildfires and to lose more because of logging is unacceptable. The science clearly tells us that we need healthy mature forests for a host of reasons including combating climate change (back to those fires), clean water and diversity of plants and wildlife. We need to protect these lands, not actively degrade them.

This bill would also certainly result in lawsuits that would cost the state millions of dollars which is not something Oregon can afford.

It would also result in more clearcuts and less habitat for vulnerable fish and wildlife. It would lead to less mature and old-growth forests, and less carbon storage on the landscape at a time when climate change is becoming more severe. And as I said above, the devastating fires are already reducing the areas where one can hike and camp and hunt. I cannot state strongly enough that this bill does not represent the public lands vision I want my elected leaders to support.

I urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, I encourage the committee to focus on measures that would protect Oregon legacy forests, safeguard fish and wildlife, and protect communities drinking water for our children and future generations.

Please oppose this bill and ensure it does not pass out of committee.

Sincerely,
Sally Schoolmaster