

Submitter: Kyle Collins
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, Vice Chair McDonald and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 4105.

As written, this bill prioritizes appears to prioritize timber production over all other significant values, goals, and services that we expect from our state forests. While timber production has historically been, and will continue to be, an important economic driver for our state, we have also learned over many decades of scientific study that intact forests provide a multitude of services to our communities such as water filtration and storage, flood control, carbon sequestration, and habitat for our wildlife.

Increasing timber production on many of the lands in the ways outlined in this bill directly undermine those services.

Additionally, this bill directly imperils the state forest habitat conservation plan which was years in the making.

Inevitably this plan would simply result in more litigation and ultimately worse outcomes for many of our most imperiled species such as salmon.

As a public resource, we need to manage our state forests in way that secures their long term future and provides for the broadest range of benefits, not simply increased profits for a small number of companies.

Perhaps even more striking is the fact that the Oregon Department of Forestry regularly meets or exceeds its timber harvest goals, often at the expense of clean water, habitat for fish and wildlife and carbon storage goals.

The bill will also increase the state's fiscal challenges by effectively ensuring additional litigation, and providing a massive public subsidy to one of the most profitable sectors of our economy.

The timber industry simply does not need our state forests in this way to remain profitable or solvent and they already have huge access to private lands across a large swath of our state.

I urge you to oppose this bill and I encourage this committee to focus on measures that would increase carbon storage in our state forests and safeguard our public resources for future generations.

Sincerely,
-Kyle Collins