

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

I oppose House Bill 4105 and its amendments. The bill undermines the state forest habitat conservation plan and could result in more clearcuts, lawsuits, and habitat desecration for salmon, wildlife, soil health, and carbon storage.

I urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, I encourage this committee to focus on measures that would stabilize and enhance the ecosystem services that these forested lands can provide. If they are clear cut, they cannot function as filters for the flora and fauna, they cannot host mycelium because the forest floor dries up from exposure to vast sunlight. They cannot support erosion control because the root systems are removed. We need protections for natural resources and carbon storage in our state forests and we need to safeguard our public resources for our children and future generations. Private forest lands, while often interwoven, do provide access to timber for economic development and the built environment. We have processes in place to determine when forest lands should be made available for private use, and we should continue to abide those conditions.

Please balance responsible timber growth, with habitat preservation for flora and fauna on state lands. A commitment to fire suppression, thinning, replanting, responsible harvest, measured results - these are the standards we expect from a state forestry program in Oregon. Thank you