

Submitter: Max Menchaca

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 and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to House Bill 4105. The forests of Oregon are an essential component of the state's vitality and economy. We depend on the forests not just for beauty and recreation, but for many of those "unseen" contributors to our state's infrastructure. For example, one key piece is their ability to preserve the snowpack every year, which subsequently provides freshwater for our communities.

This bill is a transparent ploy by the timber industry to undermine the state forest Habitat Conservation Plan and would result in more lawsuits, less habitat for salmon and wildlife, more clearcuts and pesticide spraying that harm drinking water, and less carbon storage.

It's a common ploy - a small group of people / companies (many of whom may not even be based in the state), extract profits from our state, but leave the costs and messes locally for us residents, without any of the benefits.

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

Sincerely,
Maximo Menchaca