

Submitter: Elizabeth Saufley
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in opposition of House Bill 4105. Oregonians support Forest protection and natural resource protection over logging, time and time again. This bill would increase pressure to Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to increase harvest levels at the expense of our natural resources. This bill will prioritise logging over fish, wildlife, trees, carbon storage, and recreational opportunities for Oregonians. It would limit the state foresters and ODF's ability to protect public resources and to implement their Climate Change and Forest Plan.

Additionally, this bill is expensive. Oregon does not have the budget, in our economic times, to implement such a bill. There would be an increase of litigation, since timber companies will be able to sue ODF for alleged violations of the timber harvest rule, which is also expensive. With increased litigation, the expense will include directing resources to DOJ and ODF staff time and legal fees. The expense along with the risk is not worth it.

This bill is unnecessary- ODF already sets sustainable harvest measures that are consistent with the mandate to manage state Forests for "Greater Permanent Value," and this is reported to the public. The ODF has exceeded its harvest over the past 10 years. ODF is currently evaluating plans, with counties whom are dependent on the timber industry, to increase timber harvest and revenue for the next 10 years. This partnership aligns with the state forest Habitat Conservation Plan. HB 4105 does not.

Thank you for your time,

Liz Saufley