

Submitter: Michael Forwood

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 oppose House Bill 4105 and its amendments. If this year has taught us anything, it's that we need to protect our forests, not sell them off for short term profits for private businesses. This destructive and shortsighted approach is already happening in the national forests all over our state - we cannot mirror it at the state level. We are seeing the catastrophic effects of climate change right now with record low snowpack and a looming wildfire season that could dwarf 2020. People move to this state because of its forests and the natural beauty and recreation opportunities they provide. Oregon lawmakers should focus on maximizing this appeal to bring in new revenues, not destroying it to appease entrenched special interests.

This timber industry bill undermines the state forest habitat conservation plan and would result in more clearcuts, more lawsuits, less habitat for salmon and wildlife, and less carbon storage.

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.

Please don't let this bill pass out of committee.

Sincerely,
Mike Forwood