

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly oppose House Bill 4105. This bill would force Oregon to elevate timber harvest above every other value our state forests provide—clean drinking water, wildlife habitat, climate resilience, and the outdoor recreation that defines who we are as Oregonians. Our forests are worth far more standing than a narrow, special interest-based clearcut.

Oregon's state forests are not abstract assets on a spreadsheet. They are lived spaces—used every day by hunters, anglers, boaters, hikers, families, and visitors from around the world.

They are the backbone of our outdoor recreation economy and the reason people travel here, settle here, and stay here. These forests are part of our identity and our shared inheritance. Reducing them to a single economic output is shortsighted and fundamentally out of step with what Oregonians value.

HB 4105 would also open the door to more lawsuits, more costs to the state, and more pressure to clearcut at a time when we need *more* mature and old-growth forests—not less. These forests store carbon, buffer communities from climate extremes, and protect the watersheds that supply drinking water to more than half a million people. They are irreplaceable.

This bill does not reflect the public lands vision I expect from my elected leaders. I urge you to oppose HB 4105 and instead advance policies that protect Oregon's legacy forests, safeguard fish and wildlife, and ensure that future generations inherit the same clean water, thriving ecosystems, and outdoor opportunities that have shaped our state for decades.

Please reject this bill and keep Oregon's forests standing for all of us.

Sincerely,
Lor Manning
Tigard, Oregon