

Submitter: Hunter Grove

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, Vice Chair McDonald and Members of the Committee,

My name is Hunter Grove and I grew up in the beautiful mature forests of Mt Hood, and I oppose House Bill 4105. We have very little remaining old growth and mature forests remaining, which have been scientifically proven again and again to have huge impacts on the health of our communities and home. The last thing we need is to be cutting down even more of the most beautiful and important gift we've ever been responsible for caring for, our forests, water, and air.

This timber industry bill prioritizes timber production over other forest values on state forests. It 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.

The bill is unnecessary. The Department of Forestry regularly meets or exceeds its timber harvest goals, often at the expense of clean water, habitat for fish and wildlife and carbon storage goals.

It's expensive. The state can't afford unneeded legislation with a large fiscal impact, especially with the current fiscal crisis.

It would lead to more costly litigation. The bill creates a new right to sue the Department of

Forestry. It would only allow recipients of timber revenue access to the courts to challenge implementation of the timber harvest rule.

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,
Hunter Grove