

Submitter: Melissa Turnbull
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. This bill would prioritize clearcutting Oregon forests over other critical values such as clean drinking water, clean air, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation. Our state forests are worth more standing — it is unacceptable to prioritize timber harvest over all the other values these forests offer .

When I was a little girl I was enchanted by all the wilderness Oregon had to offer and I could not wait to move here and I was able to make that dream come true over 30 years ago. I love being able to hike and just enjoy all the wild areas in my home state. It is one of the reasons I chose to move to my current location of Bend - it is an outdoor lover's paradise.

Our mature forests provide fire resilience, cooler microclimates and clean drinking water. They also help with carbon emissions. This bill would devastate salmon and wildlife habitat and lead to pollution of our clean water. DO NOT prioritize timber harvest and profit over people and habitat.

This bill would result in more lawsuits and could cost the state millions of dollars.

This bill would also result in more clearcuts and less habitat for vulnerable fish and wildlife. It would lead to less mature and old-growth forests, and less carbon storage on the landscape at a time when climate change is becoming more severe - we are especially seeing this manifest as more severe fire seasons and more frequent and longer lasting blue green algae blooms. This bill does not represent the public lands vision I want my elected leaders to support.

I urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, I encourage this committee to focus on measures that would protect Oregon legacy forests, safeguard fish and wildlife, and protect communities drinking water for our children and future generations.

Please oppose this bill and ensure it does not pass out of committee.

Sincerely,
Melissa Turnbull
Bend OR