

Submitter: Chelsea Egbert

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 am writing as a private citizen and not representing any other organization or entity. Speaking as a citizen, I oppose this bill and all its amendments. This bill promotes the clear cutting of forests, while completely ignoring the important and irreplaceable benefits of our mature forests. From an economic standpoint, increasing clear cutting makes very little sense, trading long outdoor recreation and tourism - upon which many communities rely - to short term timber sales, and would negatively impact or destroy these important economic benefits.

But more importantly, we cannot put a price on clear air, water, and biodiversity. Mature forests have been proven to sequester carbon and provide significant regulation of temperature, thus providing us with protection against the impacts of climate change. We have already seen how climate change is causing increasing and severe disasters, from decreased snowfall to massive wildfires. Clear-cutting will only make these problems worse, and increase the economic and human cost of climate change.

Once our mature forests are gone, they are gone forever. Please oppose this bill and focus instead on protecting our future.

Sincerely,
Chelsea Egbert