

Submitter: Shadrach Wood

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.

The Oregon Department of Forestry should not take any action that would increase harvest levels for timber on public lands. Existing forest is critical for maintaining environmental quality, particularly Oregon's old growth forest. It should also not establish a mandatory harvest rule. Privileging the timber industry over other uses of public lands like tourism, recreation, and carbon storage is unnecessary and does not reflect the changing environment in which we find ourselves. Timber could be harvested sustainably from stands of trees that have already been logged and replanted with monoculture species.

In addition, government ought not to be beholden to business interests. The proposed harvest rule allows timber interests to pursue legal action against the state for noncompliance with the rule. I see no reason to cede additional sovereignty to business that are at best accountable to shareholders rather than the public. The state and the people are affected by what happens to the land on which we live, which is not necessarily the case for companies that can be based and operate out of other areas. There will also be direct cost to the state induced by the implementation of the proposed rule - again, ultimately passing on consequences and costs to residents.

Finally, harvest rules should be in line with the state's Habitat Conservation Plan. We already have an existing framework allowing for sustainable timber harvest. Counties that retain interest in timber harvesting have a means to do so without making unnecessary changes to policy.

Please consider rejecting House Bill 4105.

Thank you,

Shadrach Wood