

Submitter: Roberta Richards
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or HB4105
Topic:

To the members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water: Please vote No on HB 4105.

Wildlife and wild places are already under threat from climate change and other human-made harms. If not protected, they may be lost forever, a terrible cost to this place we all love.

This bad bill, which would increase logging levels and set a dangerous precedent for non-stop litigation, was already rejected by the legislature, but now is back again. HB 4105 would undermine protections for Oregon's state forests by putting clearcuts above fish, wildlife, clean water, recreation and other values that Oregonian's cherish in our state forests. This includes jeopardizing the implementation of the Western State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and also preventing the Oregon Department of Forestry from managing its forest to sequester carbon. This bill would also threaten safe drinking water for the half-million residents who rely on state forest watersheds.

As a mother, librarian, and proud Oregonian, I ask you to open your eyes widely and recognize that our forests – the lungs of our state – are in grave danger on many fronts. This is no time to give up the fight to protect what is left of our fragile ecosystems.

Thank you.