

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

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Eric Robinson. I am a landscape designer, environmental steward, and lifelong Oregonian. I strongly oppose HB 4105.

Forests are not simply timber inventories. They are living systems that protect clean drinking water, provide salmon and wildlife habitat, store carbon, and create spaces for recreation and community. Requiring the Department of Forestry to prioritize timber harvest over all other values ignores the ecological reality of how forests function and what Oregonians depend on.

HB 4105 would undermine protections for 17 species listed under the Endangered Species Act. It would override the Department of Forestry's Climate Change and Carbon Plan by mandating 10 year harvest levels that take precedence over climate science. It could also conflict with the Governor's Executive Order 25-26 to preserve more of Oregon's lands and waters, with state forests leading by example.

This bill also creates a new right to sue the Department of Forestry over timber harvest plans, potentially forcing more clearcuts on public land and costing the state millions in litigation.

As someone trained in landscape architecture and geological science, I see forests as long term infrastructure. They regulate water, stabilize climate, and sustain biodiversity. Policy should reflect that complexity, not reduce forests to a single extractive priority.

I urge you to reject HB 4105 and support science based, climate informed forest stewardship.

Thank you