

Submitter: Michelle Lequin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

As an environmental advocate and member of the Sierra Club and Environment Oregon, I strongly oppose House Bill 4105. This timber industry bill prioritizes logging in state forests over all other forest values. It undermines the state forest Habitat Conservation Plan and would lead to more clearcuts, more industry lawsuits, less habitat for fish and wildlife, degraded water quality, higher wildfire risk from road building, and less carbon storage on state public forests.

The bill is unnecessary. The Department of Forestry already has processes in place to establish timber harvest goals and regularly meets or exceeds those goals, often at the expense of water quality, imperiled species, and carbon storage.

This bill also would require costly litigation to oppose excessive clearcutting, a cost that would be borne by Oregon taxpayers.

Our state forests are already under serious threat from climate change, increased insect infestations, unrepaired damage from weather and human use, and ongoing drought. Please oppose this move to increase logging, which will further decimate our state's precious natural resources. Thank you.