

Submitter: Richard Weinhold

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

I oppose House Bill 4105.

Our State Forests are a treasure to manage carefully for now and for the future. I live on the Oregon Coast, my home backing onto US National Forest land, with bits of BLM and County land just at the end of my street. I can walk to the National Recreation Area that adjoins my hometown of Florence. I drive through forests on my frequent trips to Eugene. I have worked for the US National Park Service, Forest Service, and BLM. I recognize the value of forests as "lands of many uses- timber, yes, but also water, wildlife, and recreation, and their role in maintaining the ecosystem of our planet.

I moved to Oregon in 1977, choosing Oregon specifically as a place where I could live, work, and play in the great outdoors and contribute to maintaining- no, imcreasing, the functioning of the forest resource. I urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, I encourage this committee to focus on measures that would increase carbon storage in our state forests and safeguard our public resources for our children and future generations. Our State Forests are another resource complementing the US federal forest lands.

This timber industry bill undermines the state forest Habitat Conservation Plan and would result in more lawsuits, less habitat for salmon and wildlife, more clearcuts and pesticide spraying that harm drinking water, and less carbon storage. Don't vote for it!

Sincerely,
Richard Weinhold