

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

I write to you today as a 77 year old who has spent the better part of his life roaming the shores, forests, and sagelands of this state. And driving the interstate highways of the western valley participating in public discourse about our collective futures. I worked in the energy resources and environmental field for more than 30 years - for the state and then for my local electric and water utility - so I have a pretty good idea about trade-offs and things that shouldn't be traded.

The proposed bill doesn't say so, but it is essentially a rewrite of existing state law/regulations regarding public lands and forests.

It throws out decades of compromise and judgements that were seen to balance timber, rivers, wildlife, water quality, and basic forest health.

It would replace it with a timber extraction mandate which would sacrifice the last four goals for the first.

My aged perspective is that the forests are far more important than mere lumber extraction and devastation - there will be tomorrows even if I am not here to see them.

I say stop further consideration of this misaligned proposal of a law - it does not align with broad public goals, it does not align with the considered beliefs of Oregonians, and it does not even have a shred of a chance of achieving its purported goals.