

Submitter: Carol Valentine

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

I oppose HB 4105. The Oregon Department of Forestry is required by law to manage state forests for the greatest permanent value (GPV) for all Oregonians. GPV requires that forest values of drinking water protection, habitat for wildlife and fish, recreation, and economic activity must be balanced. HB 4105 would place timber harvest above these other values—which are also critical for the economy, health and wellbeing of communities.

Establishing a timber harvest level by rule under HB 4105 would elevate harvest above the plans and directives put in place by the Board of Forestry that have not been codified by rule, such as the Climate Change and Carbon Plan. This bill would undermine the State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan which is important for protection and recovery of beloved wildlife species that are at risk and that will protect the state from lawsuits. By contrast, HB 4105 would open up the ODF to litigation and hamstring the department's ability to manage under changing conditions. This is an unnecessary risk that Oregon can't afford.

Please don't let HB 4105 pass out of committee.