

Submitter: Rebecca Haas

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, and Members of the Committee,

I oppose House Bill 4105 and its amendments. This bill would prioritize clearcutting Oregon forests over other critical values such as clean drinking water, clean air, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation. Our state forests are worth more standing — it is unacceptable to prioritize timber harvest over all the other values these forests offer .

- Western Oregon holds more than 600,000 acres of state forestlands, from the Santiam to the Tillamook and Clatsop, the outskirts of Salem and Portland to the Pacific Coast.
- Our forests support clean flowing rivers for salmon, critical habitat for a wide range of wildlife, recreation areas, and a robust outdoor economy.
- Drive a massive \$550M outdoor economy and support 10,500+ jobs
- Are home to six salmon stronghold rivers and 17 endangered or at-risk species
- Provide clean drinking water for 500,000+ people
- The State Forester already sets sustainable harvest levels consistent with the mandate to manage state forests for “Greatest Permanent Value” for all Oregonians and reports this to the public. The ODF has exceeded its harvest objectives over the past 10 years.
- The bill would create a new right for timber companies, counties and tax districts to sue the ODF for alleged violations of the timber harvest rule, creating endless litigation and limiting the ODF’s ability to manage state forests for multiple values.

I urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, I encourage this committee to focus on measures that would protect Oregon legacy forests, safeguard fish and wildlife, and protect communities drinking water for our children and future generations.

Please oppose this bill and ensure it does not pass out of committee.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Haas