

Submitter: David Mildrexler

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 am a resident of Oregon with expertise in ecosystem science, global change biology, remote sensing, forest science, and a number of related fields. I have long advocated for better management of Oregon State Forests, emphasizing protection of mature multi-storied forests, water values, salmon and wildlife habitat, and restoration of mature and old forests. This is the direction our public-owned forests should go to provide the greatest good for Oregonians.

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. We already have plenty of privately-owned plantations where this type of intensive forest management is prioritized over much of the Coast Range. We don't need more of it on State Lands. We need more mature and older forests.

Oregon's coastal forests attain some of the highest biomass densities of any forest type on Earth. They are crucial for climate mitigation values. Alongside their irreplaceable climate benefits, these forests provide many valuable services when they are allowed to grow older. Clean water, cool temperatures, species refugia, diverse terrestrial and aquatic habitats, and all the recreation and economic benefits that come along with these globally-renowned PNW rainforests. Clearcutting degrades all of these values.

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