

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

Co-chairs Helm and Owens and members of the committee,

A fifth-generation Oregonian, I worked in Oregon's forest sector for 25 years.

As an advocate for the sustainable management of Oregon's state forests, I encourage you to support HB 4105.

Oregon's state-managed forests are but one piece of Oregon's forest ownership, and not the largest by far. But these forests are an integral part of local economies - timber management, wood production, and environmental services such as clean water, fish and wildlife habitat, and aesthetics.

This is a common-sense good governance bill that directs the state forester to establish and publish sustainable harvest levels on state forests, develop a modern timber inventory model to track forest conditions and guide responsible management, ensure timber sales support timber-dependent communities, and above all, provide greater transparency and accountability in how our state forests are managed.

This bill does not increase harvest on state lands. Instead, it simply provides local businesses and communities who depend on state timber harvests the predictability they need to plan for the future.

Bottom line: it asks the state to tell us what they're going to harvest, and then do what they say they're going to do. That's it.

Thank you for your consideration of my perspective on this issue.

Sincerely,

Paul Barnum
Eugene, Oregon