

Submitter: Dylan Beck

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 writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 4105 and its amendments. This bill would prioritize clearcutting Oregon forests over 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 the myriad of other benefits these forests offer.

Oregon forests are of such great importance to me and my family because they support billions of lifeforms and serve as the most effective way our planet sequesters carbon. Beyond the science, these lands provide us with essential emotional, physical, and spiritual sustenance. Clear-cutting is a proven bad practice, and for the sake of our future, it should be abandoned in favor of more sustainable and less destructive forms of forestry.

Furthermore, this bill would likely result in increased litigation, potentially costing the state millions of dollars.

By incentivizing more clearcuts, HB 4105 would further degrade habitat for vulnerable fish and wildlife. It would lead to a loss of mature and old-growth forests and reduce carbon storage at a time when climate change is becoming more severe—as evidenced by the increasingly hazardous smoke seasons and record-breaking summer heatwaves we now face here in Oregon. This bill does not represent the public lands vision I want my elected leaders to support.

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

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

Sincerely,

Dylan J Beck
Portland, OR