

Submitter:

Shoshanah Haber

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, Vice Chair McDonald, and Members of the Committee,

I stand in opposition to House Bill 4105. This legislation favors logging interests at the expense of other crucial forest values on our state forests. It threatens the integrity of the state forest Habitat Conservation Plan and would result in an increase in clearcutting, more lawsuits from the industry, diminished habitats for fish and wildlife, and reduced carbon sequestration in our public forests.

This bill is unwarranted. The Department of Forestry currently has effective processes to set timber harvest targets and consistently meets or exceeds these targets, often compromising water quality, endangered species, and carbon storage in the process.

Furthermore, this bill imposes significant costs. It necessitates expensive rulemaking and would likely lead to ongoing litigation that the state would be responsible for defending, ultimately at the expense of taxpayers. It also grants the timber industry a special right to sue the Department of Forestry in order to push for increased logging on state forests. Given the substantial fiscal burden this unnecessary legislation would create, the state cannot afford it.

I strongly urge you to reject this bill. Instead, I advocate for the committee to prioritize initiatives that would enhance carbon storage in our state forests and protect our public forests and waterways for generations to come.

Please ensure this bill does not advance out of committee.

Sincerely,

Shoshanah Haber