

Submitter: rand schenck
On Behalf Of: MCAT
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 Rand Schenck, Forestry and Natural Lands Lead for MCAT, Mobilizing Climate Action Together, an all volunteer climate focused group sponsored by the Oregon League of Conservation Voters. We oppose HB 4105. The Board of Forestry has already had some of its authority undermined when authority for hiring the State Forester was taken from them and put into the Governor's office. Let them do their job as defined by the Greatest Permanent Value. They are doing their best to ensure that our state forests are being managed for the benefit of all Oregonians.

A little over 30 years ago a federal judge in Seattle, Judge Dwyer, issued a ruling that brought all logging in over 24 million acres of national forests in the Pacific Northwest to a halt. This ruling shocked the timber industry and the Executive branch. His ruling was really quite simple. You are breaking the law and need to stop all logging now. This ruling led to the Northwest Forest Plan and kept the northern spotted owl from going extinct and transformed those 24 million acres from a carbon source to a carbon sink.

HB 4105 would recreate the conditions that our federal forests experienced 40 – 50 years ago when timber production was the highest priority and the aim was to liquidate all the old growth. I urge this Committee to vote against this bill. Our state forests in just the past five years or so have transitioned from a carbon source to a carbon sink. If you passed this bill you would be voting against the extraordinary capacity of these forests to sequester and store carbon as these forests are among the most carbon dense in the world. If you were to pass this bill you would be voting for harms to water quality and quantity and you would be voting against bio-diversity. You would be voting against the Habitat Conservation Plan that the Board of Forestry approved last year that provides protection for 17 species of salmon and wildlife listed under the Endangered Species Act. I urge you to defeat this bill and not risk some future judge telling you to stop breaking the law.

Sincerely,

Rand Schenck
MCAT Forestry and Natural Lands Lead

****The OLCV sponsored group, MCAT, Mobilizing Climate Action Together, is a community of volunteers working to ensure that Oregon builds a healthy climate and green-energy economy for future generations. We participate in the Oregon Climate Action Plan coalition and partner with others on coordinated action. We actively organize to elect legislators that will work for strong climate legislation.**