

Submitter: Clark Kocurek
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 am a licensed hunter and fisherman and I am writing to oppose House Bill 4105. This timber-industry wishlist bill prioritizes logging over all other legitimate uses of state forest lands. It undermines the Habitat Conservation Plan and would lead to more clearcutting, lawsuits, less habitat for fish and wildlife, and degraded recreation opportunities on our already intensively harvested state lands.

The Department of Forestry already meets or exceeds timber harvest goals. Drive through virtually any state forest in Oregon and you will see plenty of timber harvest activity already underway. HB 4105 would also inexplicably create a new right for the timber industry to sue the Department of Forestry to force more logging on state forests. This should be the punchline to a bad joke, but it is not.

I urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, I encourage the committee on measures that would require selective logging in lieu of clearcutting, and/or increase riparian protections across our state forests to keep our rivers cool and sediment-free. As an Oregonian who pays a hefty fee for the privilege to fish, many rivers are already suffering from elevated water temperatures which could be at least partially mitigated with expanded shade and tree cover.

Please allow this bill to expire in committee.

Thank you,
Clark Kocurek
Port Orford