

Submitter: Mark Scantlebury
On Behalf Of: self
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 oppose House Bill 4105 and its amendments. This bill would prioritize clearcutting Oregon forests over other 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 all the other values these forests offer .

I moved to Oregon in 1980 and made my life here to enjoy its recreational opportunities. I regularly hike, bike and paddle in our forests and forest rivers. Clearcutting is a terrible way to harvest trees. It has a negative impact on clean drinking water, salmon and wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration and recreation.

This bill would result in more lawsuits and could cost the state millions of dollars. HB 4105 would create a new right to sue the ODF over state forest timber harvest plans and to obtain court orders that effectively compel more clearcuts on public land. In effect, it will not only impact our forestland, but also the state's finances.

This bill would also result in more clearcuts and less habitat for vulnerable fish and wildlife. It would lead to less mature and old-growth forests, and less carbon storage on the landscape at a time when climate change is becoming more severe. Just consider this winter and the drought we're in. We need to reverse this trend, not propel it.

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 would protect Oregon legacy forests, safeguard fish and wildlife, and protect communities drinking water for our children and future generations.

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

Sincerely,
Mark Scantlebury