

Submitter: Jeff Hogg

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 & Members of the Committee,

I oppose House Bill 4105. This timber industry bill prioritizes logging over all other forest values on state forests. I believe it is contrary to the state forest Habitat Conservation Plan. I believe it would lead to more clearcuts, less habitat for fish and wildlife, less carbon storage and would be a terrible long-term legal quagmire that would lead to more industry lawsuits.

1. It is unnecessary. The Department of Forestry already has processes in place to establish timber harvest goals and regularly meets or exceeds those goals, often at the expense of water quality, imperiled species, and carbon storage.

2. It is expensive. It would require costly rulemaking and lead to non-stop litigation the state would have to defend against at taxpayer expense. The bill creates a new, special right for the timber industry to sue the Department of Forestry to force more logging on state forests. The state can't afford unneeded legislation with an enormous fiscal impact.

Please oppose this bill.

Please don't let it pass out of committee.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hogg