

Submitter: Mike Flaningam

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 and Members of the Committee,

I oppose House Bill 4105. It didn't take long after I moved to Oregon years ago to change my opinion from how wonderful the forests were to then how awful logging forests were. I have seen the harm done to our rivers. I have witnessed terrified wildlife flushed from their home being clearcut. I agree with so many others that the huge landslide on Highway 229 (one of two roads that served as a way I get to work and escape route from wildfires) is the result of how logging is done. I, along with my fellow Oregonians, have felt the emotional pain of seeing and hearing the brutality of clear cuts. And as a primary care physician, I have seen how my patients who are loggers are physically and emotionally scarred from the work they are subjected to. I want less logging that we Oregon residents are currently subjected to, not more.

This timber industry bill undermines the state forest Habitat Conservation Plan and would result in more lawsuits, less habitat for salmon and wildlife, more clearcuts and pesticide spraying that harm drinking water, and less carbon storage.

I urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, I encourage this committee to focus on measures that would increase carbon storage in our state forests and safeguard our public resources for our children and future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.