

Submitter: David Whitaker

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 and its amendments. This bill would undermine the state forest habitat conservation plan that we worked sooo hard to pass. It would result in more clearcuts, more lawsuits, less habitat for salmon and wildlife, and less carbon storage.

I sat in on the public hearing for the bill at the Capitol today and heard many of the timber industry representatives state that they couldn't plan operations at their mills because of the variability in the harvest levels on state lands. If they are so concerned about wood supply for their mills, why don't they also reach out to the private timber land owners that ship so many of their logs overseas. I saw a headline recently that proclaimed "Log exports drive timber harvest increases" and when I cross the bridge over the Columbia River at Longview and see all the thousands of logs waiting to be shipped overseas, I can believe it. When more private timber is sold as whole logs overseas, there is more pressure to log the state forests that should be managed for multiple uses. I spend a lot of time in the Tillamook and Clatsop state forests in the fall foraging for mushrooms and see and feel the beauty of an intact forest. There is truly value in having older forests like these to spend time in.

I urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, I encourage this committee to focus on measures that safeguard our public resources for me and my generation, our children and future generations.

Please don't let this bill pass out of committee.

Sincerely,