

Submitter: Kristin Lensen

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 will undermine the state forest habitat conservation plan and would result in more clearcuts, more lawsuits, less habitat for salmon and wildlife, and less carbon storage.

I am retired and have a horse that I love dearly. One of my favorite activities with my horse is trail riding through state forests and parks. I belong to the Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, Oregon Equestrian Trails and the Valley View Riders. I frequently ride with groups of other horsewomen and we all cherish our times riding through older forests that have plentiful forest birds and mammals. It always amazes me how close we can get to birds and mammals that we see when we are on horseback. It's almost like they don't realize there aren't humans on the back of our horses and are not at all frightened by our presence. I'm relaying this experience to you all so that you learn about the joy I receive from the "Many Uses" that our state forests should be managed for. I realize the some harvesting in the forest will occur, but I expect a balance between the harvesting of trees and all the other uses and benefits that our forest provide. This bill would tip the scale too far towards the harvesting of trees and that's why I don't support it.

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 me and my horsewomen friends, our children, our grandchildren and future generations.

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

Sincerely,