

Submitter: Austin Koontz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing to urge you to oppose House Bill 4105.

This bill would weaken long-standing protections for Oregon's state forests by requiring the Department of Forestry to prioritize timber harvest over fish and wildlife habitat, carbon storage, recreation, and clean water. Such a mandate undermines balanced, science-based forest management and threatens the integrity of the Habitat Conservation Plan developed to safeguard these public resources. Public forests serve multiple public interests—not just timber production—and policy should reflect that responsibility.

Equally concerning, the bill grants the timber industry a special right to sue the state over logging levels. This invites costly litigation at taxpayers' expense and creates a pathway for industry-driven pressure to increase clearcutting on public lands. Please reject HB 4105 and uphold a management framework that protects water, wildlife, climate stability, and community interests alongside any economic uses.

In closing, thanks for your service to the state of Oregon.