

Submitter: Stephanie Smith
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 prioritize clearcutting Oregon forests over other critical values such as clean drinking water, clean air, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation. Our state forests are worth more standing — it is unacceptable to prioritize timber harvest over all the other values these forests offer .

I love our State Forests and Public lands for the hiking trails and the opportunities to enjoy nature with my family. Life is increasingly more stressful for Oregonians and we need to be able to get out into forests which are mature, healthy, complex ecosystems. It is no comparison hiking a forest that is on a 45 year rotation (or similar) because the diversity of species has been sacrificed.

This bill would result in more lawsuits and could cost the state millions of dollars.

This bill would also result in more clearcuts and less habitat for vulnerable fish and wildlife. It would lead to less mature and old-growth forests, and less carbon storage on the landscape at a time when climate change is becoming more severe.

I have personally experienced the effects of climate change on my property in Oregon. The property has experienced multiple “100 year flood events” in the fourteen years that I have owned it.

This bill does not represent the public lands vision I want my elected leaders to support.

I urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, I encourage this committee to focus on measures that would protect Oregon legacy forests, safeguard fish and wildlife, and protect communities drinking water for our children and future generations.

Please oppose this bill and ensure it does not pass out of committee.

Thank you for your consideration,
Stephanie Smith
(Oregon Farm Owner)