

Submitter: Mark vanWeerd
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, Vice Chair McDonald, and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing to oppose House Bill 4105.

This bill hands the timber industry a crowbar to pry open Oregon's state forests for more industrial clearcutting — and then hands them a lawsuit when they don't get what they want. It subordinates clean water, wildlife habitat, carbon storage, and recreation to a mandatory logging quota. It would gut the Habitat Conservation Plan's teeth, reducing it from a requirement to a suggestion.

The Department of Forestry already sets harvest goals. It already meets or exceeds them. This bill doesn't fix a problem — it manufactures a new one, complete with a \$1.1 million startup cost and an estimated \$10 million per biennium in litigation expenses that Oregon taxpayers would foot.

These are public forests. They drive a \$550 million outdoor economy, provide drinking water for half a million Oregonians, and shelter salmon and endangered species that can't weather more pressure in a warming climate. Mandatory harvest levels with built-in litigation rights isn't management — it's extraction dressed up as policy.

Please hold this bill in committee. Oregon's forests deserve legislation that protects them, not legislation that treats them as a timber quota waiting to be met.

Please consider,
Mark vanWeerd