

Submitter: Charles Shepley
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.

I have worked for over a decade as a hydrologic technician, both for private industry and the Bureau of Land Management. During that time I have directly seen the negative impacts of massive industrial logging projects and clear-cuts. I have measured increased stream temperature, loss of habitat, and reduced biological diversity in these logged areas.

I cannot stress enough the importance of protecting and preserving the limited amounts of mature and old growth forests in Oregon (and beyond). This bill would reduce protections for wildlife, clean water and air, as well as the visual landscape so important to the tourist industry and the citizens of the Pacific Northwest. The bill would also increase costs to taxpayers as the increasing number of lawsuits becomes a burden to the system.

Please focus on legislature that increases protections for our fish, wildlife, trees, water, air, and natural areas instead of this type of measure.

Thank you for your time.