

Submitter: Aubrey Raney-Avers

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. People come to Oregon because of our forests and the beauty and diversity of our nature, and as a resident, I love being in our forests. This bill not only jeopardizes our economy and our resident's recreation, it also opens up the state to lawsuits if minimum logging isn't met. In a time of tight budgets, this bill could cost the state millions of dollars.

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 .

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 as we're seeing this year with dramatically low snow pack. This bill does not represent the public lands vision I want my elected leaders to support.

Please oppose this bill and ensure it doesn't pass out of committee. 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.

Thank you for your time,

Aubrey Raney-Avers