

Submitter: Darby Jones

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 strongly oppose House Bill 4105. This timber industry bill prioritizes commercial and destructive logging over all other values on state forests. It undermines the state forest Habitat Conservation Plan and would lead to more clearcuts, more industry lawsuits, less habitat for fish and wildlife, and less carbon storage on state public forests.

We are in a critical moment where it is necessary to protect the few precious ecosystems we have left. Healthy, unlogged forests act as carbon sinks and watersheds for Oregonians (neighboring states that are already using Oregon drinking water resources) and have national and global impacts. In order to prevent further climate catastrophe (evident in this region by increasing climate instability, fires, floods and landslides made worse by logging and clearcuts) and ensure a sustainable future, we need to resist and shut down any moves to seize timber and natural resources from the public and our communities driven by greedy companies and private interests and enabled or allowed by shortsighted, outdated policies.

The bill is unnecessary. The Department of Forestry already has processes in place to establish timber harvest goals and regularly meets or exceeds those goals, often at the expense of water quality, imperiled species, and carbon storage.

The bill is expensive. It would require costly rulemaking and lead to non-stop litigation the state would have to defend against at taxpayer expense. The bill creates a new, special right for the timber industry to sue the Department of Forestry to force more logging on state forests. The state can't afford unneeded legislation with an enormous fiscal impact.

I urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, I encourage this committee to focus on measures that would increase carbon storage on our state forests and safeguard public state forests and waterways for current and future generations.

If protected, Oregon's forests provide these irreplaceable benefits:

- 600,000+ acres of state public forestlands
- Drive a massive \$550M outdoor economy

- Support 10,500+ jobs
- Are home to six salmon stronghold rivers
- Are home to 17 endangered or at-risk species
- Provide clean drinking water for 500,000+ people

I urge you not to let this bill pass out of committee.

Sincerely,

Darby Jones

Outdoor Recreation Guide & Nature School Educator,
12 year resident of Portland, Oregon