

Submitter: Colin Powers

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

Opposition to Oregon House Bill 4105

To the Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing to formally oppose House Bill 4105, which would expand or facilitate logging company access to Oregon's public State Forests. These lands are held in trust for the people of Oregon, not as short-term revenue sources, but as long-term public assets that provide ecological stability, climate resilience, clean water, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities.

Increasing industrial logging access to State Forests risks permanent damage to ecosystems that take decades—if not centuries—to recover. Oregon's forests play a measurable role in carbon storage and climate mitigation. Weakening protections in favor of private logging interests undermines the state's own climate and conservation goals while externalizing environmental costs onto the public.

Public State Forests are also vital for clean drinking water, flood mitigation, and recreation-based economies. Logging practices that prioritize extraction over stewardship increase erosion, degrade water quality, and reduce public access. Once these harms occur, the costs of remediation are borne by taxpayers—not the companies that profit.

Oregon does not lack private timberland for commercial logging. Allowing expanded access to public forests is unnecessary and represents a policy choice to favor industry convenience over public interest. State Forest management should prioritize conservation, climate resilience, and broad public benefit—not accelerated extraction.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose House Bill 4105 and to protect Oregon's public State Forests for current and future generations. These lands are irreplaceable, and once compromised, they cannot simply be restored through legislation.

Sincerely,

Colin Powers