



# Northwest Regional Education Service District

February 10, 2026

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens and Members of the Committee,

## **Northwest Regional Education Service District supports HB 4105.**

Northwest Regional ESD is the largest of Oregon's 19 education service districts. We serve students, educators, childcare providers and families living in Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook and Washington counties with the goal of improving student learning by providing equitable access to high-quality services and support.

Across our region many school districts depend on stable timber harvests and revenues as a piece of their funding puzzle. For some of our smallest districts out towards the coast, like Nestucca Valley, Neah-Kah-Nie, and Jewell, local timber revenues primarily fund their school budgets, not state money. Timber revenues allow these communities to have schools that serve their students close to home and stay open. Without stable timber revenues these districts will face cuts that destabilize operating budgets and go directly into classrooms. This is because state school funding will not provide the same level of funding.

Schools reliant on timber revenues already face budget uncertainty because of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). The HCP was based on modeling data showing it would provide 247 million board feet of timber annually and increase over time. After years of development, those early projections turned out to be inaccurate. 2023 projections showed harvest levels would be 165-182.5 million board feet, which missed the mark by roughly 30 percent.

HB 4105 is a common-sense good governance bill that directs the state forester to establish and publish sustainable harvest levels on state forests, develop a modern timber inventory model to track forest conditions and guide responsible management, ensure timber sales support timber-dependent communities, and above all, provide greater transparency and accountability in how our state forests are managed. This bill does not increase harvest on state lands. Instead, it simply provides local school districts, businesses and communities who depend on state timber harvests the predictability they need to plan for the future.

Respectfully,

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