

Submitter: Erich Reeder
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or HB4105
Topic:

I am writing to strongly oppose House Bill 4105, its amendments, and its reckless objective. Under the false pretense of an emergency declaration, this timber industry bill forces the State Forester to plan and implement timber sales of our State Forests prioritizing mandated logging levels over many other important considerations, including wildlife, clean air and water, carbon capture and sequestration, recreation, etc. Worse, it adds to this mandated harvest level the “timber” from any other State Forest lands which were once available and since have been withdrawn for other purposes, such as the Elliot State Research Forest. This inflated quota will lead to an ecologically unsustainable, yet mandated, high level of sustained—not sustainable—logging in State Forests with horrendous environmental and biological consequences.

As such, this bill will result in the continued ecological abuse to our publicly owned State Forest lands, with more clearcuts causing increased forest fragmentation, wildfire risk, watershed degradation, soil erosion, and carbon emissions. This will not only harm our communities, but also threatened salmon and many other forest-dependent wildlife species.

Furthermore, this bill will quickly lead to more expensive lawsuits and hold Oregon taxpayers hostage to industrial timber interests. All at a projected cost to Oregonians of an initial \$1.1 million startup cost and an estimated \$5 million per year in ODF and DOJ staff time and legal fees. Certainly this is not a great deal for Oregonians.

I urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, I encourage this committee to focus on measures that would increase the ecological health and integrity of our State Forests for biodiversity, watershed enhancement, recreation, and carbon storage, and to safeguard our public resources for our children and future generations. I urge you to please not let this bill pass out of committee.

Sincerely,
Erich Reeder