

Testimony in Support of House Bill 4105

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald, and members of the committee:

My name is Adam Wilson. I am a lifelong Lane County resident, a sixth-generation Oregonian, and a small business owner in Springfield. I am writing today to testify in strong support of House Bill 4105.

Oregon's timber heritage is one of the great economic stories of our state. For generations, working families in lower-income timber-reliant communities like mine have depended on the responsible management of our forests. Not just for jobs, but for the local services those revenues fund: our schools, our roads, and our rural fire departments. House Bill 4105 is the first step in addressing this problem.

HB 4105 requires the state to evaluate available forestland and set sustainable timber harvests on state and federal lands in order to set clear guidelines for revenue from those resources. This bill brings transparency, accountability, and common sense to forest management. It does not mandate reckless harvesting; it mandates that we finally understand what we are managing and ensure Oregon's communities see a fair return.

My community has very recently felt the impacts of the mismanagement of our timber industry. In the past, Oregon's education has relied on the revenue generated by timber to fund the valuable education that our students need. Springfield School District was forced to lay off 27 teachers due to a lack of funding. We have the resources in our backyard, but we are choosing not to utilize them.

Both my wife and my father were teachers in the Eugene-Springfield area, and our family has personally felt the impacts on local education as a result of the loss of timber revenue. I urge you to consider the benefits this legislation would have on schools across the state.

As a financial advisor, I know that you cannot build a sound budget without first knowing what your assets are. The same principle applies to our public lands. Oregon's families and small towns deserve a state government that manages its resources with the same rigor as any household or business would.

I urge this committee to pass House Bill 4105 for our rural communities, for our economy, and for the next generation of Oregonians who will depend on these lands.

Thank you.

Adam Wilson
Springfield, Oregon

