

Submitter: Charlotte Maloney

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

I believe House Bill 4105 would weaken protections for Oregon's public state forests. We need the opposite.

This misguided bill would require the state Department of Forestry to establish a timber harvest rule that prioritizes logging over fish and wildlife habitat, carbon storage, and recreation. It could hinder the agency's implementation of the state forest Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) many of us advocated so hard for. More importantly, it would put drinking water for the half-million Oregonians who rely on state forest watersheds at further risk.

Even more importantly, this year's bill would also grant the timber industry a special right to sue the state over logging levels. This would not only result in enormous litigation costs for the state (paid for by Oregon taxpayers), but would allow the timber industry to effectively force more clearcuts on state forests. We need your help to put a stop to this bad bill now!

HB 4105 may have had a hearing already. I just learned of the bill: I oppose House Bill 4105. As usual, the timber industry prioritizes logging over all other forest 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.

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.

Please don't let this bill pass out of committee. Thank you for considering my

comments,  
And thank you for your service to our state,