

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

I oppose House Bill 4105 and its amendments. This bill would prioritize clearcutting Oregon forests over other critical values such as clean drinking water, clean air, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation. Our state forests are worth more standing — it is unacceptable to prioritize timber harvest over all the other values these forests offer.

This bill does not represent a public lands vision that supports the health of our state. It supports short-term resource extraction that benefits a few, not the many, and especially not our children or grandchildren.

I do not feel this is something my elected leaders should even consider, instead I would love the committee to work on measures that would support legacy forests, safeguard fish, wildlife, and drinking water.

And let's remember despite recent political views in this country to "hurry up and grab" our resources, we as a state can and should be above that. There is no modeling where taking out forests and turning them to bare ground helps our state.

Large swatches of cut land interrupt our already unpredictable rain cycle. I live in Southern Oregon, where over the last 28 years the weather and forests have shifted dramatically. It has long been known that our region does not regenerate and should not be clearcut, yet I am seeing them everywhere now. The more cutting the drier our state will continue to become, and that is only on aspect. Let's be smart and leave a better legacy for our children's children.

On a practical level, we all know how this goes, this bill will result in more lawsuits and could cost the state millions of dollars, so let's just not.

Please oppose this bill and ensure it does not pass out of committee.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Shockey, Applegate OR