

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

From: Jim Greer

Re: Testimony in opposition to HB 4105

Date: February 13, 2026

**Dear Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water**

I'm writing to you with strong opposition to HB 4105 and request you oppose advancing it through your committee. As a wildlife biologist and retired administrator for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), I have witnessed the elimination of critical old growth habitat that a myriad of species depends on for their livelihood. Over the last 50 years, Oregon lost over 95% of old growth forests, and the number of species that need this habitat have experienced their populations decline precipitously. There are remaining pockets of old growth on our State Forests that are managed by the Department of Forestry (DOF). HB 4105 puts those remaining trees in the crosshairs of the timber industry.

This bill is not needed. The State Forester already sets 10-year harvest level goals, though not by rule, and is subject to all other values, policies and plans. The ODF issues annual progress reports on these harvest levels and has a track record of meeting harvest goals. Forests are important for many reasons other than timber. This bill would increase industrial clearcut logging on Oregon's public lands, thereby superseding balanced management on State Forests. ODF currently follows Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) guidelines while awaiting final approval by federal agencies. This bill entails loopholes such that ODF may not follow HCP guidelines.

This bill would establish a new right to sue the ODF over State Forest timber harvest plans and obtain court orders to compel more clearcuts on public land; a rule that is both menacing and litigious. It also creates conflicts with other state agencies such as ODFW's plans that are to protect wildlife and their habitats. Clearly this is a wrong-headed bill that would undermine all the progress state agencies have worked on collectively over the years to ensure sustainable forest harvests will meet the needs of species that are in dire straits of losing their own viable population levels.

I greatly appreciate Representatives Helm and Owens being lead sponsors on HB 4134, which would give ODFW support for conserving nongame species; something ODFW has never had in terms of long-term funding. I am perplexed by your support of HB 4105, and urge you to reconsider the facts of this bill and how its potential outcome is in direct conflict with your efforts to pass the "1.25% for wildlife" bill.

Please vote no on HB 4105 and do not advance this bill out of your Committee,

Thank you,

Jim Greer