

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

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

I oppose House Bill 4105.

State forests are one of our most essential habitats, being the key part of the indivisible network we (are learning to) call the environment. Every single measure to protect this essential living resource must be taken; from plants, birds, fish and animals-- including human beings! Even the mental and emotional, not to mention spiritual health benefits to humans cannot--must not-- be overlooked when planning for the day after tomorrow. My temple, my mosque, my church is the deep, quiet living presence of the tall trees and all they support and protect.

This timber industry bill undermines the state forest Habitat Conservation Plan! To name a few injuries which we cannot afford: less habitat for salmon and all other wildlife; polluted, undrinkable water; recreational possibilities destroyed and a visual blight on our senses.

Passing this bill would necessitate and abet more clearcuts and pesticide spraying that harm drinking water, and less carbon storage. Not to mention lawsuits! What a waste of our lives to have to fight this, though if you pass it we will. And millions of dollars that could have been used to support all life will swirl down the drain of political malfeasance.

I urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, I encourage this committee to focus on measures that would increase carbon storage in our state forests and safeguard our public resources for our children and future. It is the intelligent, practical and moral choice.

Thank you