

Submitter: David And Judith Berg

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

Biological diversity - both floral and faunal – knows no geopolitical bounds nor ecological/economic bounds. Species transcend whatever artificial bounds we attempt to place upon them. Certainly, the intrinsic ecological value of a biologically diverse forest far exceeds its economic value. It is a fool's errand, therefore, to decimate our forests and their constituent wildlife that contribute so very much to existence of the planet, including human lives, with destructive logging for the economic benefit of greedy industrial corporations and their billionaire executives.

Forests are the origins of Oregon's watersheds. Watersheds provide invaluable habitats for Oregon's fish and wildlife. Salmon require clean, cool, watersheds to breed their next generations. Beavers enrich the value of watersheds by slowing streams, controlling sediment deposition, enabling replenishment of aquifers. Endangered Spotted Owls require forests and their watersheds to sustain prey. Clearly, the intrinsic value of watersheds alone is sufficient to retain the viability of healthy forests. Allowing the clearcutting of these forests would severely undercut (pun not intended) the value they provide to Oregon's fish and wildlife. It would pollute the watersheds with silt and sawdust; it would heat the watersheds beyond the range for which salmon can survive.

HB 4105 prioritizes clearcutting Oregon forests over other critical values such as clean drinking water, clean air, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation. Our state forests are worth so much more standing — it is unacceptable to prioritize timber harvest over all the other values these forests offer.

Please vote NO to prioritizing forests' economic value over their ecological value.

Remember Berg's First Law: "The greatest good is served only by preserving and protecting the natural systems on which all lives - including your own - depend, habitats that comprise them, and wildlife that inhabit them.