

Submitter: John Christensen

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

I oppose HB 4105 for several reasons. First, it creates an unfair pathway for special timber interests to sue the Oregon Department of Forestry for violations of a “timber harvest rule” that benefits those timber interests over the rights of all Oregonians to the values that state forests bring to the common good—clean water, fish and wildlife habitats, recreation, and carbon storage. This bill threatens to undermine the implementation of the state forest Habitat Conservation Plan and the Climate Change and Carbon Plan for state forests for which the citizens of this state have fought. It would lead to increased industrial clearcut logging on our state forests—a practice that most foresters see as obsolete and detrimental to the future growth and maturity of our forests. By establishing a mandatory harvest rule, this bill would elevate logging over all other values that our forests provide. This bill would lead to a waste of ODF staff time and taxpayers’ money, because of increased litigation. In the interests of our state forests, which belong to all Oregonians, it is time to kill this bill now.