

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify about HB 4105. I am professor emeritus of Environmental Biochemistry and Law at Portland State University, and author of the climate science/policy text *From Knowledge to Power*, which has been widely circulated in Oregon. I write to OPPOSE this bill.

HB 4105 directs the state forester to establish sustainable timber harvest levels, and to manage state forest lands to produce that level of harvest. On its face, this statute does not undermine protection of forests for their ecological and carbon storage values, but in practice, it could well tilt the scale in favor of more logging.

First, Oregon's forests are already managed under the OFPA and the regulations it authorizes. HB 4105 is therefore not needed.

Second, by tying forest management to a quantitative harvest level, this bill has potential to shift the policy debate in favor of increased logging, at a time when Oregon's forest ecosystem is already under threat from shorter logging rotations and increased incidence of wildfires driven by climate change.

Third, by introducing a new duty, the bill would create tension with other laws requiring, for example, robust habitat conservation plans to protect threatened and endangered species. It is difficult to know how this new duty would play out in practice, but there is simply no reason to go there. Existing laws and regulations already speak to the need for a balance between logging and conservation.

Fourth, this bill seems to create new avenues for litigation, especially by plaintiffs favoring increased logging, which could be destabilizing to the cause of sustainable forest management.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in OPPOSITION to this bill.