



HAMPTON LUMBER

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Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice Chair Finger McDonald, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Hampton Lumber, I am writing in support of HB 4105. Hampton is a fourth-generation, family-owned company with sawmills in the rural communities of Tillamook, Warrenton, and Willamina.

When Hampton first testified on this issue two years ago, three sawmills had recently closed, signaling challenging times ahead. Since then, seven more mills have closed in Oregon, with most citing log supply constraints and rising costs as their primary reasons for shutting down. These closures have a profound impact on rural families and natural resource-dependent communities across our state.

HB 4105 won't solve every challenge facing our industry — and we don't expect it to. But it does provide something we absolutely need to plan for the future: certainty and predictability. This bill offers a 10-year forecast of timber volume from State Forests, which is essential for long-term planning for the businesses and local governments that rely on timber sales from these forests.

To us, HB 4105 is a modest and reasonable request. It simply asks the state to tell Oregonians, in advance, what you plan to do — and then follow through. That level of transparency is fundamental to good governance, and it is essential for companies like ours to continue to invest in the communities where we operate.

This bill does not change the HCP or any future management plans. It does not direct certain outcomes, set specific harvest levels, or undermine environmental protections. ODF retains full authority to determine what is achievable and responsible. All we are asking is that those decisions be made transparent up front, and that forecasts are reliable enough for the people who depend on them to plan accordingly.

In closing, HB 4105 gives businesses and communities the predictability they need — while allowing ODF to still determine the outcome. We believe this is a commonsense approach to a more stable future for Oregon's rural economy.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Laura Wilkeson
Oregon Director of Government Affairs