

Submitter: Bob Sowdon

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

Chair and Committee members,

HB 4105 – tells the State Forester to see how much forestland there is. The Act tells the State Forester to make harvest levels for cutting timber on state forestland. The Act tells the State Forester to manage state forestland. The Act says some people can ask for a court order to tell the State Forester to comply with this Act

Environmentalists are incorrectly asserting that it would increase logging or weaken environmental protections. That is simply not true, and lawmakers need to hear from people who care about facts and responsible forest management.

What HB 4105 does is straightforward. It directs the State Forester to clearly determine how much state forestland is available, establish and publish sustainable harvest levels, and manage those lands consistent with those levels. In short, it improves transparency and predictability by asking the state to say what a sustainable harvest is and then follow through.

That predictability matters for counties and local communities that rely on state forest revenues to support roads, schools, health care, and other essential public services. It also strengthens public trust by increasing accountability in how state forests are managed.