

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald, and members of the committee,

I'm Grace Brahler, Wildlands Director with Cascadia Wildlands. On behalf of our 18,000 members and supporters, I urge you to oppose HB 4105 and the -1 amendments. We expressed our opposition when a version of this bill was introduced during the 2025 session. It is far worse now.

Especially problematic is Section 3 of the bill, which now grants a special right only to individuals and entities with direct financial interests tied to logging state forests to sue the Department of Forestry (ODF) for failing to set or meet whatever logging levels those entities would deem appropriate. This provides the basis for a massive influx of industry-led litigation (and with it, costs borne by Oregon taxpayers for the state to defend against those lawsuits and potentially pay out expensive attorney's fees).

This also raises concerns about constitutionality and fairness. The government is not supposed to write legislation that unfairly favors one group over another. How is it fair to allow those who could generate private profits to challenge ODF decisions but NOT those who engage in non-consumptive uses of our state forests?

Further, it is inconsistent with Oregon forestry laws. ODF must manage state forest lands "to provide a full range of social, economic, and environmental benefits to the people of Oregon." This applies to ***all*** people of Oregon, not just a subgroup within.

While attempting to devise a statute that promotes accountability from the ODF, HB 4105 limits who may hold ODF accountable. It presents inconsistencies with state law and a constitutional question that would likely be sued over, initiating years of litigation and associated costs for all concerned.

This bill inappropriately prioritizes timber extraction over all other values Oregonians and visitors enjoy from state forests that are left intact, including the provision of drinking water, recreation, wildlife habitat, foraging, fishing, and more. As the state faces a financial crisis, this bill purports to solve a problem that doesn't even exist – the agency has processes to establish harvest goals and meets those goals. We should not be moving forward with a bill that allows only certain people and entities the right to challenge a decision about public lands management.

Please do not move this bill forward. Thank you.

Grace Brahler (she/her)
Wildlands Director



PO Box 10455 Eugene, OR 97440 | 541.434.1463