

Submitter: Arianne Jacques

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

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

I oppose House Bill 4105. This timber industry bill prioritizes logging over all other forest values on state forests. It undermines the state forest Habitat Conservation Plan and would lead to more clearcuts, more industry lawsuits, less habitat for fish and wildlife, and less carbon storage on state public forests. Oregon has already lost so much forest habitat and the remaining forests must be protected to ensure that we don't see species go extinct that rely on those habitats. We also must preserve wild spaces for human recreation. As we inhabit more and more space, and build closer and closer together, having wild places to retreat to is of the utmost importance for mental health and wellbeing.

The bill is unnecessary. The Department of Forestry already has processes in place to establish timber harvest goals and regularly meets or exceeds those goals, often at the expense of water quality, imperiled species, and carbon storage.

The bill is expensive. It would require costly rulemaking and lead to non-stop litigation the state would have to defend against at taxpayer expense. The bill creates a new, special right for the timber industry to sue the Department of Forestry to force more logging on state forests. The state can't afford unneeded legislation with an enormous fiscal impact. One of the main reasons tourism in Oregon is so successful is because of our impressive trees, beautiful mountain-scapes, and clean air and water. Anything that compromises the appeal of our natural spaces for ecotourism ultimately hurts Oregon and therefore Oregonians.

I urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, I encourage this committee to focus on measures that would increase carbon storage on our state forests and safeguard public state forests and waterways for current and future generations.

Please don't let this bill pass.

Sincerely,
Arianne