

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

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
From: Alexandra Morrison
Date: 02/17/2026
Subject: Opposition to House Bill 4105 – Protecting the "Greatest Permanent Value" of Oregon's State Forests
Members of the Committee:

I am writing today to express my strong opposition to HB 4105. While the bill uses the language of "sustainability," its narrow focus on establishing mandatory harvest levels threatens the long-term health and multi-use nature of Oregon's public forestlands.

I oppose this bill for the following key reasons:

- Undermines Balanced Management: Oregon law requires state forests to be managed for the "Greatest Permanent Value." This includes not just timber, but clean drinking water, carbon sequestration, and fish and wildlife habitat. By forcing the State Forester to prioritize specific harvest volumes, HB 4105 sidelines these essential public benefits.
- Threatens the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP): This bill appears designed to hinder the implementation of the Western Oregon State Forests HCP. The HCP is a science-based framework intended to provide regulatory certainty and protect endangered species. HB 4105 risks throwing years of collaborative work into legal and administrative chaos.
- Invites Costly Litigation: By allowing private entities to seek court orders against the State Forester regarding harvest levels, HB 4105 opens the door for endless, taxpayer-funded litigation. Forest management should be driven by professional foresters and best available science, not by the threat of lawsuits from special interest groups.
- Ignores Climate Reality: In an era of increasing wildfire risk and climate instability, our forests are more valuable as standing filters for our water and anchors for our ecosystems than as short-term revenue drivers. Mandatory harvest targets ignore the need for adaptive management in the face of natural disasters.

Conclusion:

Our state forests belong to all Oregonians. We should not prioritize short-term timber extraction at the expense of our environment and future generations. I urge you to vote NO on HB 4105.

Respectfully,
Alexandra Morrison
Your citizen of Salem Oregon