

Submitter: Wyeth Yogi

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,

Thank you for taking the time to consider my comment. I am an Oregon resident who  
values our state's forests as a source of many things.

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.

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.

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 out of committee.

Sincerely,

Wyeth Yogi