

Submitter: Rick George

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB4106

I oppose HB 4106 and encourage you to stop this disingenuous attempt to circumvent the very letter of the laws and accords signed by the timber industries and environmental groups in Oregon. The ink on that agreement is barely dry. And here we are having to oppose a half baked attempt to violate the intent of that agreement with hushed legislation.

It is not in the best interest of Oregon or the Department of Forestry to allow industry to sue the agency, as this bill would legislate. Private industrial forest lands have been managed as tree farms for a century - this bill would expand corporate tree farms to include state forests. No. The forest accords have just now begun to kickstart the smart revisions of state forest practices regulations to require by rule a more balanced approach to private forest lands management. HB 4106 would circumvent this careful and hard-won rebalancing of standards to limit clear cutting on private forest lands and better protect salmon and wildlife habitat and tribal cultural values by legislating clear cuts on state forest lands. No.

Literally just now being finalized, the state forests Habitat Conservation Plan would be derailed by HB 4106. No. Endangered salmon are on the edge of extinction because Oregon's watershed forests were systematically clear cut with no regard for drinking water, watershed habitat and salmon survival. No more.

Please just say NO to HB 4106. It's a violation of the hard won trust that resulted in the compromise of the Oregon Forest Accords. It's a violation of the new forest practices standards necessary to recover from a century of clearcutting. It's just wrong and the proponents and industry sponsors should be told loudly NO. No more legislated clear cuts on Oregon's already scarred and in-recovery forests and watersheds.