

Submitter: Cheryl Conway

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB4106

Opposition to HB4106

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to express my opposition to HB4106. I have offered testimony to the Board of Forestry multiple times over the last few years in support of the State Forest Management Plan FMP awaiting final approval by the Board. That plan acknowledges the value of our forests includes the ability to mitigate climate change, to nurture and restore endangered populations such as salmon, and provide employment opportunities beyond those in the logging industry.

HB4106 is an attempt to bypass the good faith negotiations between stakeholders that resulted in the proposed FMP simply because the timber industry did not get the total capitulation they were hoping for. Corporate timber will always want more acres to cut and has stoked irrational fears of monumental job losses and of economic collapse, fears that have no factual basis, to rally support of HB4106.

While it is true county special districts will need new funding models to make their budgets less reliant on money from cutting timber, that does not justify passage of HB4106. County and state officials are currently working on that new funding model and I am certain they will be successful.

The value of a forest is so much more complex than how many board feet of lumber it can produce. This is why I oppose HB4106.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Conway