

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

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

I'm writing to urge you to vote no on HB 4105.

This bill was defeated last session for good reason, and it's concerning to see it back again. HB 4105 would push Oregon's state forests toward more clearcutting at the expense of the things many of us care deeply about like clean water, healthy fish and wildlife habitat, climate resilience, and access to our public lands.

Oregon has made real progress protecting state forests, including safeguards for endangered species like salmon, Northern Spotted Owl, and Marbled Murrelet, as well as drinking water for hundreds of thousands of Oregonians who rely on forested watersheds. HB 4105 puts all of that at risk by prioritizing timber harvest targets over science-based forest management and long-standing protections for water, wildlife, and recreation.

The bill would also undermine the State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan, which provides balanced protections for federally listed species. Delaying or blocking its use could open the door to clearcutting in sensitive habitats for years. On top of that, HB 4105 would interfere with Oregon's Climate Change and Carbon Plan and invite more litigation—draining public resources while pushing even more logging on public lands.

Oregon's state forests should be managed for the long term and for the many values they provide, not just short-term logging targets. Please vote no on HB 4105.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration.

~Chris Dodge (lifelong resident of Oregon)