

Submitter:

Erin Walker

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, and Members of the Committee,

I oppose House Bill 4105 and its amendments. This timber industry bill undermines the state forest habitat conservation plan and would result in more clearcuts, more lawsuits, less habitat for salmon and wildlife, and less carbon storage. It is expensive, unnecessary, and does not account for the many things these forests do as they are now. Replanting takes years to establish in the most reliable of climates and that is not a luxury we have. Established forests provide habitat, water filtration and air filtration, cooling, and carbon sequestration like nothing humans can build.

If numbers help, these forests also drive a \$550M outdoor economy; support 10,500+ jobs; are home to six salmon stronghold rivers and 17 endangered or at-risk species; and provide clean drinking water for 500,000+ people.

Please don't let this bill pass out of committee. Instead, I encourage this committee to focus on measures that would increase carbon storage in our state forests and safeguard our public resources for our children and future generations.

Sincerely,

Erin