

Mickelson Anastasia

From: Patrino Beth
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 5:08 PM
To: Mickelson Anastasia
Subject: FW: submitting floor letter re SB 752

From: Mora Dewey [<mailto:morathistle@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 4:51 PM
To: Patrino Beth
Subject: submitting floor letter re SB 752

Dear House Committee on Etnergy and Environment:

Please accept my letter (below) in opposition to SB 752. My letter was published in the Eugene Register Guard on 4/27/15.

Thank you,
Mora Dewey Fields, PO Box 1113, Cottage Grove, OR 97424

Biomass bill is a resource giveaway

In Oregon's timber-industry dominated legislature, Senate Bill 752 exempts biomass-burning plants (think Seneca) from air pollution regulations. What? Polluting the air to produce "clean" energy?

Wood biomass, chips and pellets have been presented as a conservation breakthrough. We are promised efficient, low-emission heat using waste from timber harvesting. In reality, much biomass comes from whole trees, not inefficient, expensive-to-haul logging slash, and contributes to air pollution and atmospheric carbon dioxide.

As protests mount, Southern forests in Georgia and Mississippi are being denuded to supply pellets to Europe.

Northwest forests are denuded to export chips to Japan for biomass generators, and to power our own biomass-burning plants. According to the Oregon Department of Energy, 49 biomass boilers operate in-state with more planned.

A simplistic argument is that if not used as biomass, slash rots, releasing CO₂, so let's use it for power instead. The reality is that rotting slash releases some carbon — minus the air pollution, sequestering the rest in soil. Even on-site slash-burning (a bad idea to start with) returns some carbon and nutrients to soil.

Our Legislature appears eager to facilitate any kind of resource extraction, be it gas, oil, trees and now water, while providing tax breaks and regulatory exemptions for corporate extractors.

There was another time in U.S. history when resources were raided to profit off-shore entities. Don't let Oregon become a colony of global resource extractors. Vote against the legislators who vote for SB 752 and other resource giveaways.

Mora Dewey Fields
Cottage Grove