

Dear Committee Members,

I have recently been reading John Muir's book, "The American Wilderness".

In the late 19th Century, he was passionately and eloquently advocating for the protection of our Pacific Northwest forests against short term economic interests.

I highly recommend you reading what he has to say about the value of keeping our forests healthy and protecting the fraction of old growth forests that remain in our Pacific Coast forest and watershed.

Here we are, over a century since then struggling to save and protect a healthy forest environment in our State Legislature.

I am very pleased that Rep. Holvey has introduced HB 3226 to address our concerns regarding implementing reasonable forestry practices especially with our fragile coastal forests, where I live. Our forests are directly connected to our drinking water, and are on the west slope of the Coast range so they are more vulnerable to silt runoff and landslides.

The DEQ prepared a comprehensive report in July 2015 that gives a clear picture of the effects of logging practices on our coastal environment. It was withdrawn from publication due to pressure from logging interests.

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/3251066-CoastDWPP-DraftFinal-July2015-v3.html#document/p1>

I am counting on you to look to the long run and work to protect our forests and environment. The time is now.

Please pass this HB 3226 and let's roll up our sleeves and get to work.

Thank you,

Susan C Walsh

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