

Dear Representative Holvey;

I cannot attend the hearing on the Oregon Forest Practices Act Bill HB 3226 on Thursday March 30th at 8 AM...Salem is a long drive in difficult traffic for a 72 year old forest dweller. And I have no doubt that there will be good folks there who can speak for me.

I just wanted to have my say so I am writing to you. I have lived in the north woods some 25 years on a small plot of second and third growth trees. I have watched as Longview Fibre gave way to Weyerhaeuser and the neighboring mixed forests began turning into clear cuts, replaced by Doug fir plantations.

I evacuated my home when aeral spraying was conducted by Longview Fibre, having myself worked at developing a communications with Fibre's forest managers so I could know when spraying was planned. Notices give a time frame of often 6 months so one never knows when spraying and drifting will be occurring, unless you can get a heads up from someone in charge...

We have been notified on some occasions as we hear the helicopter landing nearby.

More recently spraying has been conducted by backpack as the young trees couldn't survive the toxic mix the helicopters dump. Most of the toxic chemicals are very deadly to people as well as plants.

We have given up our Small Woodland Owner membership because our goal with our tiny forest is to maintain it as long as possible. The SWO seem more interested in making money from their forests by harvests, and plantations and argue against the wider stream restrictions. I understand their concern that they need the money or want the money from cutting trees closer to the streams.. I am more interested in preserving the waterways so I support expanding the wider restrictions around streams.

I also do not support clear cutting. The research I have read in international journals seems to prefer logging that leaves a mixed stand of mixed ages. That way there is never a clear cut, ,but rather trees of differing ages living in concert.

I hear the rule currently is to leave 2 trees per acre. Down the road from me a recent clear cut of a stunning cedar forest (on privately owned land) the loggers selected out the most feeble, most worthless 2 trees per acre. They look sick but the lush gorgeous old cedars are cut down and gone.

Across the road from me is a spring that feeds an " off and on" stream that runs through our land, across the neighbors land and down the hill to the river below us. The whole area around the spring was clear cut some years ago. It is not "fish bearing"...but it is a spring. And its waters flow eventually to a fish bearing river. That spring area was also sprayed multiple times with toxic chemicals as part of the clear cut.

Seems to my mind that we are not doing well by Oregon forests. We are poisoning people and critters essential to the habitat with toxins. We are changing the nature of forests by planting single species plantations. We are ruining the soil. an essential carbon sequester-er with our toxic sprays that do indeed bind with the soil and wind up in wildlife that we hunt and mother's breast milk.

We are doing poorly by not using smart agricultural practices, some now applied in 3 world countries to attempt to resurrect what they have destroyed by over logging...creating mixed forests, attending to every level of the habitat from soil biology to wildlife habitat restoration...

Given the issues of climate change, we have to consider the consequences of what we do everyday, and that must include our forestry practices. We can't continue with outdated and ineffective forest practices. Oregon is far behind California, and Washington and other states in its forest protections....We delude ourselves that we are progressive with our ecological fantasies about Oregon as a green place. But we not only fail ourselves in this delusion but we fail the world and the lives of all now and in the future. We must make intelligent choices using the best evidenced based science, not that science indebted to the extremely wealthy logging industry.

I am not impugning loggers. They do what they are paid to do. It is the Logging-Industrial complex ,if you will, that we must not allow to run our policies and practices, not allow them to own our lawmakers. We must come to the place where we look to the best practices internationally, the practices that keep ecosystems alive, healthy, capable of producing sustainable harvests while protecting water quality, wilderness, soil, and beauty.

And for Oregon we must stop tying our school support to the destruction of our natural resources. Schools should be financed by raising taxes on those most able to pay: corporations, extremely wealthy individuals. They benefit from an educated public and educated workers. Our taxpayers pay their share, let those who benefit pay theirs.

I am a 5th generation Oregonian. I love every inch of this state, desert, forest, mountain, coast. For all of us, each day is a gift, as long as we have clean air, clean water, healthy soil. Without attention to these essentials, there is no hope for life at all. Thank you for supporting revisions to our antiquated logging practices.

Sincerely,

Mary Duvall
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