

Sarah Deumling <sdeumling@gmail.com>

Sarah Deumling
Zena Forest LLC
4550 Oak Grove Rd.
Rickreall, OR 97371
March 9, 2019

To: Rep. Ken Helm and Members of the
House Energy and Environment Committee

Re: HB 2656 (PLEASE READ - This is not the message you expect)

We are family forestland owners in Polk County who practice commercial forestry that would be acceptable to the writers of this bill. We have been doing so since 1987 and continue to do so. We are still here, no one has worked away from the forest all those 32 years. We live very modestly but we live well. We believe strongly that our forest practices are the best for the long term health of the forest, for our community, for our state and for the world. With the exceptions of the very hard sites where the fir is dying (drought/climate change) we maintain continuous forest cover, do not use pesticides/herbicides to release seedlings but machetes instead, etc. etc. I'd be most happy to talk more about how we actually manage the forest.

Folks in the timber industry and many small woodland owners will claim that a bill like HB 2656 would shut down commercial forestry. We disagree and think it need not. Such a change in forest management would make Oregon truly a model of sustainable forestry and a wise state government would do all they can to help folks make the change. It will contribute greatly to our chances for a livable future.

I do not expect this bill to pass this year but feel it is very important to start this conversation and take it seriously.

Thank you for your service.
Sincerely,
Sarah Deumling and family