

House Committee On Energy and Environment

Testimony in Opposition of House Bill 2656 – March 12, 2019

My name is Milt Moran, President of Cascade Timber Consulting, Inc., in Sweet Home, Oregon. I manage the lands of a property that has been family owned since the early 1900's. We manage 145,000 acres of timberland in Linn County, ranging from the Brownsville area on our west end, and east to near the crest of the Cascade Range. I have had the privilege to have spent my entire career on this property, nearly 46 years. I also have been very privileged to now be working with the fourth, fifth and sixth generations of the family. We are working under a Trust that was established in 1917. This year we celebrate 102 years of that Trust, a significant document that has stood the test of time.

This property is managed under Sustained Yield Forestry, that will keep this property as a vital business for future generations, while providing jobs for our communities, revenues for our county and state, and products for society. We are certified by the American Tree Farm System. Our logging, road building and maintenance, reforestation and overall management meet and exceed the Oregon Forest Practices Act. We work closely with the Oregon Dept. of Forestry and the Linn Forest Protective Association to protect our lands and lands of our neighbors from wildfire.

House Bill 2656 would negatively impact our forest operations. We grow many species of trees on this property, however our most significant species is Douglas fir. Douglas fir is the most sought after species for construction. Products from Douglas fir are many, including framing lumber, plywood, paper products and now several engineered wood products that are leading to revolutionary new building technologies, including "Tall Wood Buildings". Douglas fir is a "shade intolerant species". This tree species will not grow and thrive in the shade of other trees or brush. HB 2656 would prohibit clear cut logging or Regeneration Harvests. Without this vital tool to manage our tree farm, and only allow thinning, would soon put our forests into conditions that would be more susceptible to disease and wildfire. HB 2656 would prohibit construction of new logging roads. Our new roads are placed to better protect sensitive resources, including streams. Modern logging systems on properly constructed roads protect the environment. Reconstruction of legacy roads bring those systems up to new standards that enhance fish passage and prevent surface run off to our streams. Road surfaces, cross drainages and maintenance further insure stability and clean water. New roads are being built to gain better access in case of wild fire. HB 2656 would prohibit the application of herbicides and fertilizer. As mentioned, Douglas fir being shade intolerant, needs to have ground that is prepped for new seedlings to give them that

shot to grow beyond the animal browse stage. Herbicide application is done one or two times in the rotation life of a timber stand. We are not growing a mono-culture, many species thrive as these stands grow to maturity. Without our ability to apply herbicides our forests would be inundated by brush and invasive species, again creating conditions ripe for wildfire. Without herbicides our roads would no longer act as fire breaks, but would become fire hazards and not allow fire equipment access in timely fashion.

House Bill 2656 would be a damaging piece of legislation for our industry. Clean water is a product of managed working forests. Wild fires produce excessive green house gases. Fire is fought aggressively and very successfully on managed working forests. Healthy forests are less prone to large fires due to good road access and management of fuels. Managed working forests absorb carbons and create clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, jobs, products and revenues from taxes and assessments that support our government, our schools and other services. Carbon is stored within our working managed forests as well as multiple wood products.

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 2656, a true attack on Private Property Rights, and an industry that is good for all Oregonians. Future generations of our ownership, and that of others, I would imagine, would want the opportunity to do the right thing, by managing these great resources as working forests, and not be tempted sell out or develop these lands to other uses.

Please Vote to OPPOSE House Bill 2656

Thank You for your service to Oregon

Milt

Milt Moran

President

Cascade Timber Consulting, Inc.

Sweet Home, Oregon