

Brad Reding <breeding223@yahoo.com>

Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment,

I have ventured and spent time in the woods since I could walk. I have been involved in the forestry and wood products industry since 2005. I would invite any of the members to come visit a working managed forest before deciding on HB 2656. This bill is extremely slanted at removing a sustainable and green sector from Oregon and in doing so would be bad for our environment, woods workers, and Oregonians as a whole. The forestry sector is under strict guidelines from the Oregon Forest Practices Act, which sets forth rules and requirements for notifications of activities such as road building, harvesting, thinning, and spraying before the activities take place.

I myself am a regeneration forester, meaning I am responsible for growing the next forest after the current harvest is complete. Part of my job is maintaining relationships with water districts in my management area. We know each other and have communications when working in the vicinity of municipal water. I inform them of our plans and then we have an open discussion to address concerns and make changes as needed with plans to ensure the safety and quality of everyone's water resources. Much to people's disbelief, the forestry sector is one of the most regulated sectors for chemical use in the State while we only account for four percent of the annual pesticide use in Oregon. While we are one of the most regulated industries, we are also the most criticized by those who have never been out to an active and working forest.

As a proud Oregonian, father, and forester I depend on the forest and feel confident in continuing our practice of active forest management, which includes type 3 harvests, herbicide use, and fertilizer as needed, to produce wood products for today while ensuring the opportunity for generations to come. Sustainability and responsibility are our objectives to ensuring what we have today will be available for years to come. Without active management we are left with little to show as we have seen in recent years where large scale fires have polluted the air and left many lives, homes, businesses, and recreation areas in ashes.

At any scale, non-management is mis-management and should be avoided for the benefit of everyone. HB 2656 is very emotional, but we have to root our decisions on science and facts. According to DEQ data, some of the best water quality comes from forested watersheds, including those under active management.

For the above reasons, I oppose HB 2656 and hope you will as well.

Sincerely,

Brad Reding