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Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 12:55 PM

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Subject: HB 2656

Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environment,

I write you to oppose HB 2656 and urge you not to pass this out of committee. I have been a professional Forester for over 35 years in the State of Oregon and believe that we have strong Forest Practices Laws that protect our environment as well as producing economic benefits to all the people of Oregon. These laws as well as the rules and best management practices that are applied are based on scientific and practical research that has shown the existing laws to be more than adequate in protecting the watersheds that we operate in. The people who manage and work in our forests and their families rely on the same clean drinking water supplied to the communities where they live. Clearcutting and application of herbicides and fertilizers are common practices that are being applied effectively and safely. To prohibit these practices would essentially shut down timber production in our State along with the many benefits provided by managed forests. HB 2656 is completely unnecessary in that it would not provide any additional benefits our drinking water sources while at the same time destroying a vital piece of Oregon's economy.

David J. Sweeney
Forest Grove, OR.