

Frank Nasby <fnasby@stimsonlumber.com>

Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environment,

I have worked in the timber industry for more than 30 years, assisting in the management of private timberlands. Working under the rules and requirements of the Oregon Forest Practices Act (OFPA) and an extensive list of other state and federal regulations, these lands have been harvested (some multiple times) and regrown into healthy, thriving forests. The rules and regulations under which these lands are managed are continually improving based on science and factual data, unlike HB 2656, the intent of which is not supported by science. We can look at the vast expanses of state and federal lands that have been devastated by disease and fire in recent years to justify the continued harvest and hands on approach to managing the timberlands. Even California is looking at ways to increase their harvests and better manage the devastation they are experiencing.

Restricting the use of good forest management practices will greatly impact communities across the state. The small communities dependent on the jobs forests provide, directly and indirectly, will be pushed further into economic turmoil. The risk of catastrophic fires will be increased. These types of fires pose threats to the physical structures of these communities as well as their water supplies. As seen last summer, the entire state is impacted by the smoke from these fires and the landslides from the denuded landscapes.

These are just a few of the reasons I oppose HB 2656, which is based on emotion instead of facts and science. I hope you will as well.

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