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

I strongly support HB 2656.

In Portland we take for granted all the plentiful, clean water we get from the Bull Run watershed. I'm 22 and only realized how fortunate I have been after I visited a friend in Houston, Texas last year. He has never in his life drank water from the taps in his neighborhood because so many nearby oil refineries have polluted it. The reckless practices of one industry left a city of more than 2 million people with water many cannot drink.

Now I know Bull Run is clean because it's protected from industrial forestry, but most of Oregon's water isn't. As the latest Oregonian series, "Polluted by Money", demonstrates, Oregon has a problem with its under-regulated industries quietly poisoned our air and water.

Many of the testimonies here claim that this bill will take away Oregon's jobs and hurt rural communities. This is untrue. What hurts rural Oregon is the small number of companies that employ as few people as they can in order to cut as many trees as possible. Companies that then sell this unprocessed lumber to Asian markets instead of Oregon mills—all so that a few Wall Street-backed timber companies can see massive profits. In 2018, for example, Weyerhaeuser broke a profit record with [\\$332-million in second quarter sales](#). The timber companies are our oil refineries: their money leaves the state while we clean up the mess.

If this bill is passed small forest owners could provide both good jobs and clean water. With real sustainable forestry practices they compete with big operations. Imagine the benefits to rural Oregon if all forestlands were managed as forests not plantations. Rather than one feller-buncher clearing a stand in a matter of days, a team could selectively cut the oldest trees, others could limb younger trees for straighter growth, cut back weeds, and process that timber in Oregon mills. Wood could be sold at its true value. We could have the best timber in the country, living forests, and clean water.

As a young person who grew up under climate change, imagining a future where we don't have to make a trade off between the environment and our work is the most hopeful thing I can think off.

Thank you,

Elijah Cetas