

Todd Josi <ToddJosi@hotmail.com>

Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environment,

I am writing this email in opposition to House Bill 2656. I was born and raised in a small rural Oregon town. My town is sustained by agriculture and timber industries. Being raised in a small town, allowed me to develop a love of the outdoors. As I started high school, I began taking AG and natural resource classes. These classes helped bring my love of the outdoors and science together. I became very interested in natural resource and land management. Eventually, I went to college and pursued a career in forest management. This career brought me back to my home town, where I currently am a reforestation forester.

House Bill 2656 concerns me because it restricts the ability of trained professionals to manage forestland. Oregon's Forest Practice Act (FPA) already has laws in place to protect drinking water and to insure Oregon's forests are properly being managed. FPA is also based on the best science and is a living documents that has been updated many times over the years. DEQ has found that the best water quality is found in forested watersheds, many of which are under active management.

For these reasons, I oppose House Bill 2656 and hope you will as well.

Sincerely,

Todd M. Josi