

To the House Committee On Energy and Environment Committee

Representative Ken Helm, Chairman

Testimony on HB 2656

For Hearing Scheduled for Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Do NOT adjust what is successfully working. Do NOT fix what is not broken!

Oregon has thriving beautiful forests and timber lands. This is because of the tools put in place over the years to assist small woodland owners as well as large timber companies such as Weyerhaeuser, Hampton Tree Farms and others. Without these tools you only have to go over the Cascade pass to see the devastation still existing on federal forest grounds. Without these tools many of the small woodland owners could not and would not continue striving to keep healthy sustainable timber. Neither would large timber companies. It takes a minimum of 35-50 years to grow healthy trees. These are not a 'crop'. They are a family's heritage given not only to their heirs but also to Oregonians. Oregon is known for its beautiful forest which provides habitat for wildlife, helping hold snow pack, taking carbon sequestration in and putting oxygen out into the atmosphere. They provide family wage jobs for many. Do NOT take away the tools that assist in achieving this.

Environmental aspect: Forestry is a long term process short term thinking does NOT work!

Please do NOT pass this bill out of committee. It is not good for Oregon!

Gary and Mary Betts  
Oregon Tree Farm Owners  
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