

I live in Seaside, Oregon, and am writing to urge the Committee to vote yes on the Oregon Safe Waters Act of 2019, H.B. 2656. This important legislation will greatly reduce clearcutting, spraying of pesticides and fertilizers, and construction of new logging roads on forestlands that have drinking water sources.

These timber industry practices have contaminated drinking water sources and also have depleted water supplies. Studies have shown a 50% decline in water from watersheds during dry months where there has been heavy clearcutting. The clearcutting and chemical spraying in forestlands with drinking water sources have increased the risk of wildfires, toxic algae blooms, and flooding. Needless to say, these practices are a threat to wildlife habitat such as salmon and steelhead. These practices also threaten our drinking water and at the least produce water that is more costly to treat.

With climate change the dangerous effects of these timber industry practices will only increase.

Cities like Salem and Rockaway are already dealing with contaminated water from timber industry practices in forest lands with drinking water sources. Salem has spent millions to treat its water for algal blooms that threaten human health.

This is not something we didn't know. It has long been known that clear cuts along with chemical sprays and dirt slides from logging roads endanger waterways and influence algal blooms. Also, Oregon logging is overwhelmingly the most significant source of greenhouse gas emissions in the state. In, *OSU Research Confirms that Big Timber is the Leading Source of Gas Emissions In Oregon*, John Talberth of the Center for Sustainable Economy, writes that Oregon logging has produced more than 33 million metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent every year since 2000. "This makes logging by far the largest source of emissions in the state, far larger than," the 23 million metric tons attributed to transportation."

The least we can do is avoid clearcutting and chemical sprays in forestlands with drinking water sources. Please vote yes on H.B. 2656, a common sense measure to protect our drinking water and wildlife habitat.

Laura Allen, Seaside, Oregon