

Marilyn Schmidlin <marilyn.schmidlin@gmail.com>

To whom this may concern,

Proper management of forestland and watersheds are a necessity for a healthy forest. HB 2656 will impede proper management besides hindering the appropriate stewardship practices that small woodland owners have put in place.

The Nehalem River runs through my parent's small woodlands property, which has been an amazing blessing. With that blessing comes responsibly to maintain the pristine dynamics needed for all watersheds. I have had involvement planting trees in the riparian, selective killing of evasive species as well as continually picking up trash that flows down stream. Evasive species, like Scotch Broom, must be controlled before these evasive species completely destroy the native plants/trees needed for a healthy forest. Unfortunately, there is no good way to remove these evasive species. Yet if we are banned from the use certain products that do kill them, they will take over.

There are many forest practices that are beneficial for a vigorous forest. We need to be able to build roads for proper firebreaks to help prevent devastating fires that may occur. We have always complied with the current forest practice act (FPA) and enjoy having our local forester involved in protecting water quality while harvesting timber, road construction, use of herbicides as well as other compliance of existing laws. During harvest and building of roads we require the use of silvicultural tools, if they are banned it will catastrophically impact all forestland, not just privately owned.

HB 2656 will be devastating to all of Oregon residences, land and environment. Completely get rid of HB 2656 so we all can continue to manage our forests properly while giving all our native species a chance to thrive.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Schmidlin
Washington County