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To: Oregon State Legislature – House Committee On Energy & Environment

From: Timothy Shiel P. O. Box 195 Cornelius, Oregon 97113

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 2656

I would like to express my opposition to HB 2656 and elucidate a few of the myriad of reasons why it should not make it out of committee. What follows is a list of my hierarchy of bullet points in support of my position:

- ***For every acre removed from the private forestland timber base in Oregon, 2-3 acres will be harvested elsewhere to compensate for those acres.*** This bill will remove thousands of acres of highly productive forestland from timber production. It is a fact that restrictions on Oregon timber production simply move that harvest (demand) elsewhere (Canada post the NW Timber Plan in the 1990's). Many places here in the US, and elsewhere in the world, do not enjoy the robust environmental protections that are in place here in Oregon.
- According to DEQ data, the best water quality in Oregon comes from forested watersheds, ***including those under active management.***
- **Private forestlands are regulated under the Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA).** Under the FPA, protection of water is regulated in many ways including: protective buffers on streams for harvest operations, limited ground based operations during the wet season, buffers on waters of the State and required riparian management zones during spray operations, and in-stream work period restrictions for planned activities among others.
- ***Common sense need not be mandated by law!*** Many forest operations, such as timber harvest, road construction and maintenance, and herbicide applications are routinely coordinated with the water masters of local municipal water systems.
- This bill will decrease the value of forestland to private land owners. ***This is unjust and will have the un-intended consequence of additional loss of forestland*** as many owners may decide to develop their land or at a minimum sell all parcels greater than 160 acres which under current land use laws qualify for siting a home.
- ***This bill is a "red herring" from those who want to expunge logging in Oregon by any means.*** These people have an idyllic and unrealistic view of the natural world and think that by prohibiting man's use of the forest all will be right as rain. A natural environment is not static. It is changing constantly and man's absence from the forest will only limit our ability to respond when needed to the catastrophic events that mother-nature throws our way. One only needs to take a tour of the Oregon Cascades to see what the absence of man's active management has brought us: ***insect infestations, catastrophic wildfires and the resultant smoke filled valleys.***
- ***60,000 Oregonians make their living in/from the woods product industry.***

I have worked and recreated in the forests of northwest Oregon for the last forty years. I am a graduate of Oregon State University and the content of this letter reflects my personal views and not those of my employer.

Sincerely,

Timothy Shiel