

CCC FORESTRY

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180 Commercial Street NE, Suite 9
Salem, OR 97301

March 11, 2019

House Energy and Environment Committee

Subject: House Bill 2656

Dear Chairman Helm and Committee Members:

Thank you for holding a hearing to allow us to offer some testimony. We oppose this bill. The proponents would do a great deal of mischief to our forests.

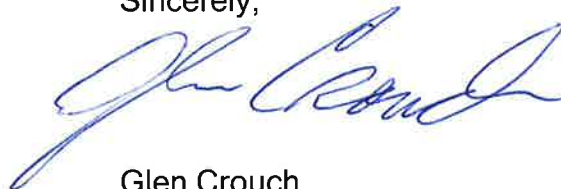
Our lands are located in four different counties in western Oregon, and nearly all of them had very little timber when they were acquired. Most were brushy pastures or abandoned.

The bill would ban even aged management. The reason our stands are even aged is that we planted them tract-wide once we got the invasive weeds under control.

Control of holly, English ivy, English hawthorn, scotch broom and gorse can only be effective using herbicides. We have tried various manual approaches and costs run five times as high. Then too, herbicides are only used during the first few years of timber stand establishment. After that time, the trees shade out most of the competition. Holly and ivy do have to be manually removed, but the stumps have to be treated or they both resprouts vigorously.

The proponents of this bill do not understand what we are trying to do, nor do they understand the natural dynamics of west side timber and timberlands. If this bill is passed, it will, in my opinion, render our lands economically useless. We have been working on them for 36 years and count on some of the timber to help fund our retirement. We shall be bitter if outsiders and the government take that from us.

Sincerely,



Glen Crouch