



March 12, 2019

House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room 374
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: HB 2656 Public Hearing

Dear Honorable Representatives,

Oregonians are fortunate to have vast watersheds that serve as tremendous sources of water for a variety of beneficial uses. Great rivers span the state, delineating the landscape where we live and work. These rivers are fueled by tributaries, many of them originating from working forests. Oregon's forest owners and managers both understand and respect this important connection.

The public record clearly demonstrates that Oregon already has a robust and effective regulatory framework in place to address water quality standards. The science also supports the conclusion that actively managed forests are healthy forests, and healthy forests are more resilient in the face of fire, disease, or drought.

To maintain a future supply of clean water for downstream users, private landowners in Oregon should be encouraged to maintain the integrity of working forests rather than be subject to additional regulatory and financial burdens that simply do not deliver tangible benefits.

Passage of HB 2656 would likely result in unintended consequences that pose even greater threats to water quality. Increased operating expenses and loss of property values associated with unnecessary regulations affects the cost competitiveness of Oregon businesses working to compete in a global marketplace and negatively influences long-term investment decisions. Under these conditions, timberland is at greater risk of being converted for agricultural or residential development purposes. Land conversion increases forest fragmentation and limits the inherent capacity of natural catchments to sustainably produce an abundant supply of clean water.

Please consider opposing HB 2656, and thank you for accepting this testimony for the record.

Sincerely,

Stephen P. Levesque
Managing Director of Operations
Campbell Global, LLC