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The Safe Waters act has been created to reduce damaging clearcutting, spraying of pesticides and herbicides and fertilizers, and construction of new logging roads, which reduce forest carbon needed to fight climate change and contaminate our waterways. Pesticides and herbicides cannot be filtered from the sediment of our streams and rivers, and these chemicals are shown to be damaging to invertebrates like bees and other pollinators, damaging to young growing infants and kids, and precursors to many types of cancers and other health-related disorders. We need our forests to be resilient to climate change, to be stabilizing forces during times of drought, and to keep our water free of toxic algae bloom. Strong forests and forest practices provide better habitat for fish. Algae bloom in waters that provide water for Oregon residents is costly to treat when chemical contaminants and sediment from erosion overwhelm drinking water systems.

Well-managed forests provide more jobs in a number of sustainable forest-management practices, not fewer. We need water to live, and we need to manage the land well, provide clean water and air so that future generations of our children live long lives in good health and in a healthy environment.

I want to see a YES vote on HB2656.

Thank you.

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