

House Committee on Energy and Environment

Representative Ken Helm, Chair

Representative E Werner Reschke, Vice-Chair

Representative Sheri Schouten, Vice-Chair

And Members:

Representative Lynn Findley

Representative Andrea Salinas

Representative Janeen Sollman

Representative Marty Wilde

Representative Anna Williams

Representative Jack Zika

Regarding HB 2656, an emphatic NO vote

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee,

My name is Bill Marshall. I have worked in the private timber industry for more than 40 years. During this time I have been fortunate to work with the same family owned company. Our vision is long term. Our management practices and support of research extend beyond the next rotation of trees. Our mission is not a get rich scheme, but rather something that can be carried out in perpetuity. Our operations are environmentally safe and sustainable.

~1.4 million trees annually pass through our tree storage facility and are planted out on timber property primarily in Linn County, OR. We have been very successful. A key to our success is due to our judicious use of herbicides. Herbicides are very important for survival and growth of newly planted seedlings. As a class of pesticide herbicides are quite safe when used appropriately. Our use of herbicides in forestry is regulated by law and rules of 3 agencies: Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Agriculture and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. The use of herbicides is important to us. We make sure to follow all the regulations so our continued use will not be limited.

In my opinion HB 2656 is an attempt to disrupt the business of timber harvest simply to satisfy the desire of a few people to save trees and limit use of natural resources. Water quality coming from forested land, including industrial timber land is reported to be the best in the state compared to other land uses such as Agriculture, Range and Urban. Testing by Agencies above has not shown that use of herbicides in Oregon Forestry has resulted in contamination. There is no need for additional regulation based on fear of unknown and misunderstanding.

Aerial applicators are intelligent operators who use tools developed through scientific testing that greatly limit chance of offsite deposition, drift. The combination of pump pressure, nozzle spacing, orifice size, nozzle orientation, boom width and air speed are controlled to optimize deposition of large droplets to the target area. In-flight computers and GPS navigation systems assist the pilot to identify the target area and protected resources, of which people and water are primary concerns. Laws of agencies named above set buffer requirements to protect people and resources. Historically protection has been very successful. Our company has never been found in violation of any rule or law pertaining

to herbicide use. Herbicide applications on our company property are not done when spray droplets will move from the target to people or protected resources.

Clear cut harvesting is the best way to begin to grow Douglas-fir and other conifers. All conifers like sunshine. Some conifers are known as shade tolerant. They tolerate shade, but do not thrive in shade. Giving each newly planted seedling full sun and limiting weeds during the first couple years is the ideal way to grow a strong healthy stand of trees. Growing trees, in an area that was clear cut provides the optimal conditions. This has been demonstrated time and time again at various universities and research stations, even worldwide.

If HB 2656 or any similar derivation were to pass the result would significantly impair the timber industry. It would probably break the back of the timber industry. Many timber harvesting jobs would be lost. Many manufacturing jobs would be lost. Timber tax revenue would sharply decline. In Linn and other Oregon Counties much of the firefighting effort is paid for with timber dollars. Firefighting in much of Oregon utilizes labor and resources (fire trucks, dozers, tankers) provided by timber harvest companies and land owners. If timber harvest was drastically cut the ability to fight forest fire would be greatly impaired.

The system is not broken. There is no need to fix it. There is no need for additional regulation based on fear and misunderstanding.

Please do not support HB 2656.

Bill Marshall  
Director Silviculture  
Cascade Timber Consulting, Inc.  
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