

**A Resolution Opposing HB 2656
By the Yamhill County Commission
March, 2019**

WHEREAS, Fifty-four percent of Yamhill County is forestland, including 171 thousand acres of private forestland, which produces fiber supply for four Yamhill County wood product mills, and generates over 1,300 local family-wage jobs at higher than state average annual wages.

WHEREAS, HB 2656 decimates the ability of private landowners to actively manage Oregon's working forests by prohibiting road building, regeneration harvests and clear cuts, and the use of pesticides and fertilizers.

WHEREAS, Oregon's forestlands are currently managed under Oregon's strict Forest Practices Act which is based on the best available science and already provides all the perceived benefits outlined in HB 2656 and will continue to do so, following its built-in monitoring and modification procedures.

WHEREAS, HB 2656 is unnecessary to protect water quality as the Department of Environmental Quality data confirms the best water quality in Oregon comes from forested watersheds, including those with active management.

WHEREAS, Maintaining the productive use of private forests is critical to the economic and social stability of many Oregon counties and communities.

WHEREAS, HB 2656 increases the cost of managing forest landscapes, encouraging forestland conversion to other land uses making it difficult to keep forests as forests.

WHEREAS, HB 2656 provides almost unchecked opportunity for non-native, invasive weeds such as Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry and Japanese knotweed to flourish, choking young trees, forest roads and riparian areas, impacting fire protection and wildlife habitat.

WHEREAS, HB 2656 forces private management practices to mimic those on federal forests, where overstocked, diseased and inaccessible landscapes have generated 86 percent of acres lost to wild fire in Oregon over the past decade.

WHEREAS, Carbon emissions from wildfire smoke emit millions of metric tons of air pollution, are costly to rural economies, and negatively impact Oregonians' health.

WHEREAS, Oregon produces more softwood lumber and more softwood construction plywood, that store carbon, than any other state in the nation, accounting for 17 percent of United States softwood lumber production and 29 percent of United States plywood construction and HB 2656 would remove Oregon from its position as the number one softwood lumber and plywood producer in the country, shuttering the United States' primary source of renewable, carbon friendly building products, to be replaced by other producers of alternative products in other states and countries.

WHEREAS, HB 2656 provides no improvement in water quality from forests, yet causes economic harm to Oregon's rural communities and forest owners.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Yamhill County Commission go on record opposing HB 2656.