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Sen. Roblan and Rep. Gomberg

Good morning,

We are writing to express support of HB 2656 - the Oregon Safe Waters Act. The only suggestion would be to increase the monetary penalty for violations. The amounts in the bill are barely pocket change to the culprits.

The bill addresses several of the key issues that have been discussed over decades with little (as little as possible) or no affirmative action on the part of the timber industry. Somehow, accountability has to be forced into a system that results in wanton disregard of everything -- the environment, human health and safety, natural beauty -- but insures profits for the industry. And, it appears that clear cutting, which is the root cause of many of these bad outcomes, will never be made right in our lifetimes as long as legislators and local governments choose to accept that the industry has a right to buy politicians.

The Short Creek watershed is small and insignificant to the people who are profiting, but critical to the environmental health of this small area. Your support of the bill is appreciated.

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