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Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environment

Although I am not currently a Timber Land owner and have no personal dog(monetary loss)in this fight. I have been, and members of my family are and have been, involved in the timber industry for over 70 years!

As you have seen, based on the mostly negative responses from your constituents, on HB 2656, if passed, is poised to destroy the last of the logging Industry in this State!

What a shame to destroy one of our best renewable resource Industries, that in its prime, was almost solely responsible for funding this State and School systems. A problem that continues to this day! These problems will continue for the State as we drive out the remaining Industries and people, by passing what I believe is a flawed Bill with little to no scientific bases.

We saw from the environmental movement in the '70's and '80's, of a nearly a complete shut down of logging, of 100's of local sawmills shut down, thousands of jobs lost, and bankrupting or near bankruptcy of many small towns in Oregon. Many of which are still trying to recover.

I believe this is another environmental push, not based on real science but emotion, much as the "Spotted Owl" theories of the '70's!

Look to the large cities storm water runoff and Industries for the real contamination of our waterways and water supplies!

Small lot timber owners and private timber companies baled out the loss of State and Federal Timber, and continue to keep this Industry alive and supply a renewable resource to this State, Country, and the World while also being good stewards of the land and their environment.

The demand for lumber and wood products will continue, whether Oregon supplies it or not. Do not continue to drive this Industry offshore to countries who don't come close to meeting our Environmental Standards and Practices, and don't give a rip about sustainability and environment, as we have in this State!

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