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To all Oregon Representatives,

We support the Safe Water Act of 2019 and agree that decades old logging practices of clear cutting, fertilizer and chemical use pollutes and warms the ground water and runoff.

As climate change worsens, we need healthy sustainable forests to help protect from wildfires, toxic algal blooms, floods, drier soils and provide clean drinking water. This forest act is just what is needed to help combat these detrimental effects that are happening now.

The use of herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers and clear cut practices on forests upstream of Detroit Reservoir provided nutrients and warmer waters for the 2018 toxic algal bloom and affected many communities and Salem's ability to provide safe drinking water. Communities across the United States are finding that the warmer climate combined with nutrient runoff is leading to increased toxic algal blooms. It is interesting and noteworthy that Bull Run reservoir, although much smaller than Detroit, experienced no algal bloom with it's protected forest drainage basin.

Clear cutting also increases flooding, higher sediment release into streams and increases forest fire potential with plantation like closely spaced trees that are never thinned adequately by forest owners.

HB 2656 Safe Waters Act along with the Oregon Forest Carbon Incentives Act of 2019 that will stop subsidizing poor timber management and provide funds and forest employment opportunities for rural communities, will go a long way to help sustain Oregon's water quality and timber sustainability.

Great Bills, we hope they move forward!

Sincerely,  
Larry and Lois Read