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To whom it may concern,

I am in favor of clean drinking water, keeping streams cool enough for fish to prosper, and no toxins added to our natural or populated areas. I believe HB 2656 will give us such protections.

Furthermore, I find it insane to keep policies in place that aggravate conditions for forest fires and/or damaging floods.

Lastly, as the level of carbon in our atmosphere continues to warm our planet, acidify and raise ocean temperatures, cause sea level rise, melt glaciers and sea ice, and all other myriad impacts we will see in greater magnitude, including permanent species extinctions, if we don't take aggressive corrective action, we need healthy, diversified old growth forests more than ever to sequester carbon.

I imagine there must be vigorous opposition from loggers and other industries who might feel the short-term impact of passage of HB 2656. They need jobs. Legislators, please find ways to support, retrain or otherwise employ workers who need jobs. They need sustainable work, for they and their children will also pay in some way for logging jobs that ravage our natural environment. I believe the costs of not passing this bill will be greater in the long run than protecting our watersheds and forests by passing it this session.

Please pass HB 2656 in 2019. We need to plan for a healthier future because if we don't care for our natural environment, it will be ill-equipped to care for us.

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