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I am writing in support of HB 2656, the Oregon Safe Water Act of 2019. Current large-corporation forestry practices, including clearcutting and land clearing, contribute to

- less stream and drinking water in the dry seasons
- more wildfires and more destructive wildfires
- more flooding and more destructive flooding
- more sediment in our drinking water
- global warming

In contrast, sustainable forestry practices would maintain clean water and would store carbon, thereby minimizing destructive climate change.

Currently, toxics (herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers, and petroleum products) from logging and heavy equipment poison our lands, plants, wildlife, fish, groundwater, streams, and especially drinking water. The only stakeholders that benefit from current practices are the large corporations that take in short-term profits while passing on the costs of environmental damage, climate disruption, and illness. The jobs tied to sustainable forestry practices would themselves be more sustainable and would come without long-term, collateral damage.

This bill would help point us in the right direction.

Sincerely,

Randolph Splitter  
Portland