

Raszka Shelley

From: Heidi Christian <heidi.christian83@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 11:13 AM
To: Exhibits HNR
Subject: Regarding HB 2659

My husband and I live in the Camp Creek area, northeast of Springfield, atop McKenzie Ridge where we manage a 34-acre tree farm for timber production. We are concerned about HB 2659 which would sunset all special forest tax assessments.

As small woodland owners, we understand the role our tree farm plays in contributing to Oregon's clean water, clean air and wildlife habitat, while also sequestering carbon. In 1993, we planted 8,000 Douglas Fir and Ponderosa Pine seedlings. Prior to planting, the west end of McKenzie Ridge had only a small stand of Douglas Fir with scattered hardwoods; otherwise, this was a grassy area. Old timers had told us elk never came to our end of the ridge. Recently, due to the cover of our now 25-year-old stand, an elk herd as large as 52 head visited here. We know we have improved wildlife habitat as we manage our land sustainably.

Last fall it was time to thin throughout 24 acres, which projected almost a break-even financial endeavor for us, yet this practice improves the health and fire safety of the remaining stand. By the time we sent 7 loads to the mills, paid our logger, and paid our harvest tax, we realized a net loss of \$800. It is not cheap to manage even a small woodland like ours! HB 2659 would most certainly impact us if we were required to pay more in taxes just because we own forestland. Moreover, HB 2659 would discourage longer crop rotations, ruining the biodiversity of Oregon's forests; and force some landowners to change to an entirely different agricultural crop.

HB 2659 would increase the tax burden of Oregonians with forestland like us, who strive to keep Oregon green. Please, "NO" on HB 2659!

Thank you, from our McKenzie Ridge Tree Farm--



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