

March 25, 2019

RE: HB 2659

Dear House Natural Resources Committee Members:

HB 2659 will change Sustainable Forestry and all that has been accomplished through Oregon Forest Practices Act, in protecting all woodland natural resources.

- Oregon is the top wood producer in the entire country; even at that, it is sustainable,
- The size of clear-cuts is limited to 120 acres, and there must be a 300 foot buffer zone before another clear-cut may take place.
- There must be 2 leave trees per acre, which may be in a group or individual
- The clear-cut must be replanted, within 2 years, it is the law
- These must be “free to grow” dbh minimum of 11” at breast height; with a minimum of 200 well distributed trees per acre within 6 years.
- There are fines and penalties if the clear-cut has not been replanted and free to grow within that time frame.
- If landowner has not achieved that goal, ODF may step in, do the work, and assess the landowner for the cost.

HB 2659 will remove the benefit of responsible stewardship forestry. I am the State Inspection Administrator for Oregon Tree Farm System, Inc., (OTFS), where there are 738,480 certified tree farm acres.

- These landowners follow Standards of Sustainability set forth by American Tree Farm System, (ATFS) who certifies forest landowners for the entire country.
- With a five year rotation for each state, landowners must participate in audits, or leave the program.
- ATFS is third party audited after each yearly audit.

There are other organizations that audit larger landowners, Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), 4,111,054 acres, and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) 193,057 acres, to make certain forests of all acreage size are managed sustainably, responsibly, and follow the laws.

I understand non-educated foresters, or onlookers may not like the clear-cut, however, forests are renewable resources, being cared for by those that love their work, the forest, and all it entails.

It does not seem correct to tax the forest landowners, or micro manage their forest, when not educated on the level necessary to understand the nature of all that it involves, with a bill that should not even be before the Natural Resources Committee.

Please consider what all this involves, and protect Oregon’s healthy working forests, their owners, and all forest workers by voting against this house bill.

Thank-you for your time, and consideration.

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