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To: [Exhibits HNR](#)
Subject: HB 2659 Hearing Testimony
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 12:04:26 AM

3/25/2019

TO: Chairman Rep. Brad Witt and Natural Resources committee members Gorsek, Springler, Barreto, McKeown, Reardon, and Smith

From: Debra Fant, Resident of Lincoln County OR

RE: Pass HB 2659

Today you will likely hear many sad songs from timber industry supporters about how proposed House bill 2659 would put small forest owners out of business or cause harm. You may even hear reminders that timber and chemical companies directly or through front organizations supported your campaigns and expect you to work for their interests. I hope you also hear eloquent descriptions of what makes this bill's content good for Oregon as a whole - people, non-humans, and living waters, fertile soils, clean air, and habitat.

I live in the forest in rural Lincoln County and see evidence of harms that are legal under the laws our own legislature passed in 1970's with updates that have effectively gutted fair taxation of these large industrial corporations; stopping county payments for harvesting timber, being exempt from property taxation and business taxation that even small businesses pay. Why is a feller-buncher exempt when an office pays a tax on a computer or copy machine? The state is hurting for sufficient funds for programs mandated by law - what will it take for you to stand up to these self-serving multinational corporations and assess their profits in a fair manner? What would it take for you to get out into the coast range with locals to show you what deforestation and watershed harm looks like up close and personal, to see how little forest habitat is intact in which wildlife can live, or to see the evidence of salmon rotting in the stream beds before they die because of sun warmed waters, silt from clear cuts on steep hillsides and nothing to hold it there, and toxic chemical exposure that in returning salmon can confuse them as to how to find their spawning streams.

This HB 2659 is offering incentives in hopes of motivating timber industry practices to move away from un-necessary harms to life forms of all kinds. There are other options - and good options like those named in USDA published OSU study (Stein, 1999) where a single hand release (cutting away of plants immediately adjacent to seedlings) showed conifer seedlings were growing more robustly without chemical herbicides, rodenticides or fossil fuel 'fertilizer' than those sprayed by toxic chemicals. Extending growing cycles of plantation tree farm stands to have value and productivity beyond chipping tall skinny tooth pick trees for Asia's paper industry.

Lastly I would remind you that standing mature, diverse species of trees in a true forest are working non-stop to absorb the carbon emissions we humans so carelessly create, and they offer us instead clean oxygen and clean cold stream flows 50% more robust (Perry-Jones, 2016) in dry season. The citizens and life forms of Coastal Oregon need these forests, indeed, the world at large requires these temperate rain forests to mitigate human harms. Plantation mono-cropped fir cannot hold soil on hillsides, nor moisture in the soil, nor do their small

crowns capture even a fraction of the moisture a multi-storied canopy can pull in and drip into the forest soil. Dr. Beverly Law of OSU confirms in research from 2018 that deforestation through timber clear cutting is responsible for Oregon's #1 carbon emission. What will it take for you, the presumed leadership of this state, to pay attention and make courageous decisions that put the health and safety of life first for a change? Bank ledgers and cash will not feed, hydrate, shelter nor protect you from the storms and natural consequences of human actions and degradation of our land and waters.

As you are hired by the people of this state to represent our interests, I suggest strongly that this bill be passed from committee onto the House floor for a vigorous and revealing debate that might just expose truths infrequently heard and shine light on what nicely is called "spin." Imagine working as a democratic body, doing what is right for the land of Oregon, for the people, wildlife, fish, clean food, water, air and intact fertile soil. It is this on which we all depend for a high quality of life. Let's get to it!

Thank you for courage and your consideration of my observations, challenges and documentation.

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