

## Eddie Dooley Testimony Opposed to SB 2659

Hello, my name is Eddie Dooley. I am a Forester for and agent of the Avery Family Forest, a 12,000 acre timberland in Linn County. This Certified American Tree Farm has been continuously owned for 117 years by a large family who has just started its 7th generation. The Avery family essentially practices ecoforestry regularly exceeding the Forest Practice requirements, growing trees on an 80-year rotation, planting diverse species, retaining old growth reserves, using herbicides very sparingly, marketing high value products from the old trees and actively managing free recreation access. I imagine that this is the type of forest management that the sponsors of this bill would love to see enacted on more forest land and **should** be classified under the regrettably squishy designation of “semi-natural” forestry. However, based on the text of this bill, the **model** forest I manage, would be classified as a “plantation” simply because after multiple thinning entries, we do ultimately conduct regeneration harvests every 80 years. This “miss” classification not only would negatively financially impact my client, but would also **discourage** the adoption of more ecologically sound forest practices across the forestry sector. Taxing the value of standing timber necessarily would drive down rotation ages since allowing timber to grow to its biological rotation age of 80 would create a bigger tax burden. Passing this bill would incentivize younger harvest **or** incentivize the conversion of land to other uses including urban sprawl which presents greater problems with wildfire in the wildland urban interface. The consequences of this bill’s passage are in direct opposition to the purposes of forest retention defined in the tax code into which the new language is inserted, thus making a confusing and contradictory tax code.

I oppose the repeal of ad valorem tax exemptions for skyline and swing yarders, logging methods that when conducted well have the lowest understory vegetation and soil disturbance of any commonly used logging method. If tax benefits for this equipment disappeared there would surely be greater investment in tethered logging systems which likely have higher understory disturbance and soil erosion than aerial systems.