

**From:** [HEE Exhibits](#)  
**To:** [Exhibits\\_HNR](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HB 2659 Testimony  
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**From:** Izak Monroe <izakmonroe@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2019 10:10 PM  
**To:** HEE Exhibits <HEE.Exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 2659 Testimony

March, 25<sup>th</sup> 2019

Chair Witt and the members of the committee,

I am a small woodland owner writing in opposition to House Bill 2659. This legislation is bad policy that will result in bad economic and environmental outcomes.

I grew up playing and working in the woods and since my early 20's I lived very frugally so that I could purchase my own little 31 acre forest. While this investment will never make me rich I love managing my land and my parent's nearby forest as well. My parent's and I have diverse management goals for our land. We have set some parts aside and let nature take its course while in other places we actively cultivate stands of Douglas fir for commercial purposes. I am proud to take part in both of these management strategies. Being a tree farmer is a honorable profession. Oregon's private forest owners, large and small, all help to provide an indispensable resource for civilization.

I am concerned that this bill and others being discussed this session are unfairly targeting the forest products industry. Private forest owners produce a necessary crop just like farmers who raise grains, fruits or vegetables. However, our crop can only be harvested after decades. Tree farmers plant the crops that their children and grandchildren will harvest. We don't tax the wheat farmer for the real market value of the farm land for good reason. The same logic holds for the tree farmer. HB 2659 will turn our forests into liabilities. If it becomes expensive to grow trees people will stop. If taxes on forest land rise many will be forced to harvest prematurely or move.

Oregon's forest products industry in the best in the world and growing trees and the turning them into the lumber that shelters people in our country and many others. Please let us continue this proud tradition.

Sincerely,

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