

From: [Inga Fisher Williams](#)
To: [Exhibits HNR](#)
Subject: Support for HB 2659
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TO: Chair Brad Will and Members of the
House Committee on Natural Resources

FROM: Inga Fisher Williams
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Re: Forest Carbon Incentives Act, HB 2659

It is with great pleasure that I write in support HB 2659. As a resident of Oregon for close to five decades, I have been proud of our State's many environmental achievement, holding in high esteem its Republican governor, Tom McCall, who led with a vision of protecting the state he so loved.

The Forest Carbon Incentives Act is in accord with this vision which I share. It will compensate and reward timber producing forest land owners who leave behind healthy, climate resistant forests. By creating incentives for using sustainable forestry practices, this bill will also protect clean water, support fish and wildlife and avoid costly damages from imprudent timber management. The benefits of encouraging smart timber practices will allow forestland owners to adhere to responsible stewardship of their holdings for generations to come.

By rescinding tax breaks for the very large industrial landowners (above 5000 acres), this bill will focus on the corporate owners who rarely share the stewardship ethos of family-owned forestry owners. In fact, their exploitive mindset drove small mills out of business in past decades with predatory bidding practices in timber sales, causing much harm to our small timber-dependent communities. The industrial practices of these mega forestland holders are responsible for many harmful logging damages such as increased fire risk, depleted water supplies, toxic algae bloom, landslides and flooding.

Oregonians have been subsidizing these harmful industrial forest practices for too long. With prudent public policy, you have the opportunity to redirect incentives for the kind of forestry management that avoids the damages and encourages responsible timber production.

Wouldn't we want to reward forestland owners who care about the health of their forests and have a stake in seeing that their values in timber management are continued?

For the health of the forests, productivity of timber lands that is linked to sustainable practices and for the continued safeguarding of water quality, I urge you to support HB 2659.

Inga Fisher Williams