

From: [Alan Winter](#)
To: [Exhibits HNR](#)
Subject: Support HB 2659
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 4:15:43 PM

I am writing to urge you to move HB 2659 forward and schedule a hearing and the work session phase.

Latest economic and sustainability research from the Center for Sustainable Economy demonstrates clearly how vital Oregon forests are to the global climate change threat, and to jobs in Oregon.

Our forests, when managed in industrial timber ways, contribute to increasing carbon emissions. However, when managed to maintain both forest health and sustainable timber harvests, our forests are one of the greatest carbon sequesters on the planet, and can employ 5 timber workers for every 1 worker using ecologically harmful industrial forest practices.

I spent this past weekend at the PIELC (Public Interest Environmental Law Conference) hearing from forest scientists, community, and lawyers on the state of our forests, and the profound potential for both jobs and forest and climate health.

HB2659 is an excellent beginning to what must become an aggressive restoration of our forest health and the economic health of our forest communities. It is a bill that stops subsidies to harmful logging practices, increasing our state budget to meet social service needs including supporting sustainable, healthy forestry practices and the forest communities that depend on our forest for economic health.

I strongly support this bill and agree with the following position from the Sustainable economy and environment network:

"At a time when state agencies and counties throughout Oregon are struggling to make ends meet while also experiencing rising costs associated with climate change HB 2659 offers a simple solution: rescind and redirect tax breaks for industrial forest practices that are driving climate change and making the costs of adapting to it much greater.

HB 2659 would let counties use the extra revenue for schools, infrastructure, public services and investments in climate smart forestry solutions that will help reduce the risks of fires, floods, water shortages and harmful algal blooms while rebuilding forest carbon stocks. Tax breaks for small woodland owners and larger owners who know how to log while leaving a climate resilient forest behind would be unaffected.

Twenty-four conservation and community organizations with thousands of members have endorsed this measure and are ready to offer testimony and support for its passage. Please take a look at the endorsement page here. In a recent expose – Polluted by Money – the Oregonian found that Oregon ranks number one in the nation in terms of per capita corporate giving to campaigns and tops the nation in campaign contributions from the timber industry. Moving HB 2659 along will help assure Oregonians that their lawmakers are willing to stand up to this corporate money and start dialing back the many unwarranted tax breaks and subsidies the timber industry has received as a result.

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