

Submitter: Kate Miller

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and  
Water

Measure: HB2659

I am writing to support the passage of HB2659

Oregon has a diverse economy and timber and forestry that has needs for better management, resource planning with benchmarks . We need resources that would be dedicated to preserve and protect our vital resources and adjust to climate change,

I have worked in the US Forest Service as a fire fighter. Fires are more intense and the fire season is longer than ever. We are at a tipping point where identifying data about the status of the forest and water will help us to navigate future changes more effectively. This bill will lead to specific geographical detailed plan with priority areas, rather than a status quo approach to avoid further devastation.

There is a huge risk to inaction at this juncture. Oregon is a western state that offers opportunities for tourism that is centered around the natural world. With greater and lengthening fire season and more impacts from extreme weather, we are at HUGE risk. Fishing and fish habitat are more vulnerable to forest health than ever. We have treaties with the native American tribes that need to be honored, to better maintain fish we need specific data. The recreational fishing industry and commercial fishing industry are both vital to Oregon's economy. Pharmacologically valuable resources are potentially destroyed without safeguards. Sustainable timber harvesting is part of our economy that deserves planning and protection. We cannot assume that the future generations of Oregonians will enjoy any of this without a detailed plan to mitigate climate change. This is 100% focused on a critical area. My Son works for Jet Propulsion Lab NASA. He works on the Mars Perseverance team. using GPS data. There are sophisticated mapping tools that we can deploy to assist in measuring and defining overall forest health. Oregonians will benefit from updating and modernizing our data to improve outcomes. There are now mapping tools and capabilities that we need to leverage to increase

our knowledge and ability to maintain forest health.

We need leadership at the state level and resources from the Federal government that can be accessed if we have these building blocks in place.

Quality of life is important and without a map, we are at risk of losing opportunities.

We have had serious underfunding and neglect of our public resources for over twenty years. We need a more collaborative and scientific approach.

Climate change and the declaration of an emergency allow us to mobilize now. This is the threat of our lifetime

This is an area that cannot be responded to reactively. We need a proactive management plan with the goals that HB 2659 will enact.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kate Miller

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