

mike meredith <mikemere@gmail.com>

I am a manager/owner of family forestland in Jackson County, Oregon and oppose HB2656 as being unnecessary, extreme, economically destructive, and wrong for Oregon. This is a thinly veiled "stop logging" measure that uses scare tactics to get support. As a career forester who has worked on private lands for over 40 years, including on lands within the Medford municipal watershed in the Cascades (known as one of the purest drinking water sources in the US), I know that tests have shown no damaging effects from active forest management on these lands.

These lands have been managed for timber production for over 100 years, with railroad logging, all types of harvest, reforestation including herbicides for seedling survival, and fertilizer application. Forestry is regulated by the Oregon Forest Practices Act, which is THE pioneering legislation of its kind, as well as federal law including the Clean Water Act.

HB2656 will not encourage owners to keep working forestland...who knows what alternative uses will appear. Homesites will not improve watershed quality. Please look at the dollars that are contributed to Oregon's economy from active management of these lands (including income and harvest taxes), and do not advance this Bill.

Sincerely, Mike Meredith 3200 Camp Baker Rd Medford OR 97501