

From: Jennifer Hamaker <jenhamaker1@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 12:19 PM
To: Reiley Beth <Beth.Reiley@oregonlegislature.gov>
Subject: Please oppose HB 2656

HB 2656 is extreme legislation that would ban active management of forestland on over a million acres in some of Oregon's most productive forestland by prohibiting harvest, road building, and application of pesticides and fertilizer in forests that serve as public drinking water sources. The bill claims these restrictions are necessary to protect water quality, which is completely false. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality data confirms the best water quality in Oregon comes from forested watersheds, including those with active management.

Oregon's forests are currently managed under some of the strictest environmental regulations in the nation, much of which is explicitly protective of water quality. Maintaining the productive use of private forests is critical to the economic and social stability of many Oregon counties and communities. Private forests sustainably produce 78% of Oregon's timber harvest, support over 100 manufacturers, and employ more than 60,000 Oregonians in family-wage jobs.

HB 2656 would remove Oregon from its position as the number one softwood lumber and plywood producer in the country, risking the shuttering of mills and the loss of thousands of family wage jobs in already vulnerable rural communities.

HB 2656 is also bad for the environment. Taking away tools to manage non-native, invasive weeds such as Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry and Japanese knotweed, would choke out young trees, and clog forest roads and riparian areas, impacting fire protection and wildlife habitat.

All HB 2656 does is force private forests into the same non-management as federal forests, where overstocked, diseased and inaccessible landscapes have generated 80 percent of acres lost to fire over the past decade. Carbon emissions from wildfire smoke emit millions of metric tons of air pollution, are costly to rural economies, and negatively impact Oregonians' health.

Thank you for the opportunity to have my opposition of HB 2656 heard and addressed.

Jen Hamaker
[805-245-2612](tel:805-245-2612)