

Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environment,

There is no science that supports the intent of HB 2656. According to DEQ data, the best water quality in Oregon comes from forested watersheds, *including those under active management*.

Forest operations, such as harvest, road work and herbicide applications are routinely coordinated with water masters of local municipal water systems for both informational purposes and to allow water masters to take any steps they desire to further assure high water quality.

Herbicides are used to control aggressive vegetation that may prevent establishment of young trees in the first few years of a 40- to 60-year stand life. Herbicides are precisely applied to desired areas and vegetation, and cannot be applied in weather that allows them to drift. The Oregon Department of Agriculture requires control of Class A noxious weeds, and in some cases herbicides are the only effective means of control.

Our working forests are vital to Oregon's economy. They are perpetually renewable and are a raw natural resource that can continually provide products that benefit Oregonians and creates wealth for our schools and State. We should be encouraging higher production and use of lumber from our forests, not less. More than 60,000 people in this State are employed in our forest and forest products industries. Harvest has already been heavily curtailed over too much of Oregon's state and federal forestland, resulting in decreased health and reduced growth. We need to work to improve growth from our remaining working forests, and we need to use all available, scientifically sound tools and methods to do so, including the use of appropriate fertilizers, which would be prevented by HB 2656. It is unacceptable to prevent the use of a safe and effective tool!

For these reasons, I oppose HB 2656 and hope you will as well.

Thanks for your consideration in this matter,
Matt

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