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House Committee on Energy & Environment's

I am a forester of 34 years and manage timberland in a community watershed. My family and I drink the water that is collected on the lands that I manage. This property is adjacent to where I live, work, raise children, fish, hunt, recreate and raise livestock. I have no doubt that the water quality in this watershed is among the highest quality in the northwest.

Currently:

- Forest herbicides are thoroughly tested and highly regulated by state and federal agencies, and are safe and effective. All streams, wetlands, lakes, schools and homes are buffered to protect people, drinking water and fish habitat.
- 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.
- Third party testing and analysis of herbicide applications in forested watersheds confirm safe drinking water conditions.
- According to DEQ data, the best water quality in Oregon comes from forested watersheds, *including those under active management*

Every watershed is unique in its qualities and are managed differently according to those qualities. Applying a hands off approach is not supported with good science and is a waste of our natural resources which is critical to the economic and social stability of many Oregon counties and communities. I strongly urge you to oppose HB 2656 and allow professionals to manage utilizing good sound science.

Sincerely,

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