

To: Chairman: Representative Helm & Committee Members  
House Energy & Environment Committee  
RE: House Bill 2656  
Date: March 12, 2019  
From: Sister Krista von Borstel, Executive Director, CYO/Camp Howard

Camp Howard is located in Clackamas County and operates year around primarily as a site for the Outdoor School, rentals and our own summer program. In all, we host 6,000 primarily youth campers and some adult campers. While at the camp they are educated from various perspectives on forest management.

Camp Howard is primarily concerned about the safety of the 250 – 300 campers housed there at any given time, especially from forest fire. We have been the victims of the smoke from fires around us the past few years as have most people in the area.

Camp Howard has been an active working tree farm prior to its institution as a camp and we have continued that practice during the past 66 years of the camps existence. Money brought in from this endeavor has assisted us in building and maintenance of the camp over the years.

At Camp Howard we work diligently to keep the forest floor cleared of fallen trees, limbs, and branches. We maintain a 100' defensible space in the event that a fire would come up to the camp from the Bull Run Reservoir that is located below us. We are concerned that HB 2656 would ban construction of roads on our forestland and application of herbicides necessary for fighting invasive species and staying on top of unwanted vegetation.

Oregonians are fed up with the destruction of our forests due to fire, especially fires that are the result of careless activity. Removing the tools that enable us to promote healthy forests will encourage a "California like" effect which I am sure none of us would like to see in Oregon.

Thank you for your time,

Sister Krista von Borstel, SSMO  
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