

Dale Zimmerman <dalezim@gmail.com>

Dear Representative Williams,

My wife and I are retired and own and manage 75 acres of forestland in Clackamas County. We have been managing this land for over 25 years. We are proud of our stewardship of this land.

As I understand it HB 2656 is suppose to apply to forest operations that are a drinking water source. Our land is part of the Clackamas River watershed. We believe in using the best management practices on our forest land.

HB 2656 bans clear cuts. Clear cuts serve a purpose. Douglas Fir is the most economically grown timber producing conifer. These trees do not tolerate or grow well in well shaded areas. The Oregon Forest Practices Act already places limits on the Type 3 harvest size, proximity to streams and the frequency of cutting. Further more most small timber owners, when they do harvest, cut only small areas (less than the 120 acre maximum allowed).

HB 2656 would prohibit the building of new logging roads, unless the road building occurs in conjunction with the vacating of a logging road that poses a risk to a drinking water source environment. The OFPA already has requirements in place for the building of forest roads. Additionally small forest owners have few roads through their property due to the small sizes of the acreage involved. I am unaware of any scientific evidence that recommends prohibition of logging roads.

HB 2656 also would prohibit use of pesticide and fertilizer. Again the OGPA rules already give clear requirements for the use of these chemicals.

Also the Department of Forestry does on site inspection of permitted harvest activities to determine the adherence to OFPA.

In conclusion, HB 2656, as written is not founded upon any consensus-based scientific evidence and is excessively burdensome, especially to small forest land owners. We believe HB 2656 should be withdrawn from consideration.

Sincerely,
Dale and Cindy Zimmerman
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