

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of this Bill. For the past 5 years I've been actively involved with climate justice groups trying to keep Oregon from becoming a fossil fuel faucet for Canadian companies to pipe their Tar Sands fracked gas to the Coast and then off to Asian markets. The threats of: pipeline explosions, water contamination, kill zones, unprecedented methane emissions, salmon spawning stream destruction, eminent domain for private land taking and a general plundering of Oregon's beautiful landscape has kept me wide awake deep into the night. If anything goes wrong it would be a disaster. Then I heard about this Bill and it was eye opening. Instead of merely being a big threat to the environment IF these fossil fuel projects are built, the timber industry standard practices on State and private lands in clearcutting, constructing logging roads, and spraying chemical herbicides and fertilizers into our drinking watersheds IS already a reality. I mean just last year right here in Salem you had the algae bloom, linked to forest practices runoff, that shut down your drinking water!

How could this practice be tolerated? Then I read the Oregonian's expose' on corporate money influencing all manner of legislative process and cringed. The timber industry lobby has either kept you all out of the loop, convinced you to turn a blind eye to this problem or worse. Whatever your excuse you're not doing your job to protect the Sacred that is Oregon. You've got Rockaway Beach residents getting notices that their water contains cancer causing chemicals following the turbidity from clear cuts. Then the same residents were exposed to forest industry toxic aerial spraying. And that aerial spraying is directly affecting the Oceanside and Cape Mears drinking watershed—which in turn drains into the Three Arches National Wildlife Refuge. And then what happens to tourism and real estate values as these communities become toxified? Or are Oregon coastal communities now just sacrifice zones for the timber industry's shameful practices?

From the State side, the only thing to debate here is whether or not this land, air and water toxifying and these intensely carbon emitting timber industry practices are just the best and only way to manage our State forest lands to produce its mandated money for education. I betcha one thing, if the students in the schools where this money is supposed to go got wind of the nature of this contribution to their education they'd throw it right back in your faces. At some point, someone somewhere has to draw a bright line and say the State needs the money but not at the cost of poisoning our citizens.

I hope this committee draws that line for State and private lands and stands by the people not the corporations.

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"I only went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in."

-----John Muir

