

Ashley Jones <anjones1925@gmail.com>

I am Ashley Jones and I am writing to you in opposition of HB 2656. I live and work in Eugene at Seneca, which is comprised of 4 companies; two sawmills, a biomass plant and timberlands. My grandfather founded Seneca in 1953. Today Seneca is female owned, by my mother and her two sisters. We take pride in the family-wage jobs that result from our use of state-of-the art technology and best management practices that protect our resources and especially our water quality.

We have 167,000 acres of timberland that we have been managing sustainably for 30 years. Our timberlands have 92% more timber on them today than they had when we first acquired them. This does not mean we started with 1 million trees and now have nearly 2 million seedlings. It means we have 92% more board feet of timber on this land as a result of our management over the past 30 years.

We are producing green, renewable products from these timberlands through our sawmills and our biomass plant which powers 13,000 homes in Eugene while operating as the cleanest running biomass in the Nation. Seneca has nearly 500 employees, many of which have been there longer than I have been alive. I am 32 years old, I am part of the third generation and we as a family are planning for generations into the future.

By prohibiting Harvest type 3 operations and severely limiting road building and other management practices, HB 2656 would make it untenable for private companies to own timberland. Oregon's Forest Practices Act gives us the best of both worlds: it provides a framework for the active management of our private timberlands while protecting our drinking water resources.

On my family's timberlands we have cool, clean water, thriving wildlife, healthy soil and world-class recreation. We are not unique. I urge you to reject HB 2656.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter,

Regards,

Ashley Jones