

David Dougherty <david.dougherty@gwrglobal.com>

March 11, 2019

Dear Representative Helm,

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 2656. I am a forester on the North coast. I help manage forests within the watersheds of seven communities drinking water. My own drinking water comes from the land that I help manage. I grew up on the coast and have spent most of my life living within these seven watersheds. For these reasons and more, it is extremely important to me that these watersheds receive proper management like they already are. However, HB 2656 places unnecessary restrictions on the management of these watersheds. The Department of Environmental Quality has confirmed that these watersheds are already being managed to produce the best drinking water in Oregon.

My colleagues and I have a combined 13 years of experience directly overseeing the application of herbicides within forested watersheds. In this time, we have worked collaboratively with the water masters of varying watersheds to address any concerns or issues they might have. This collaborative process has resulted in the continued excellence of water quality that the communities rely on. One water master even stated that in his 30 year career he has never had an issue or a detection of an herbicide from our forestlands.

HB 2656 would affect one third of the property that I work on. The impacts of this sort of economic reduction is unthinkable. The Oregon coast is already a difficult place to make a living wage and sustain economic stability. HB 2656 would have far reaching consequences on the communities that rely on these jobs and would decimate many communities across Oregon.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my opinion on this matter.

Sincerely,

David Dougherty

Cc: Representative E. Werner Reschke  
Representative Sheri Schouten  
Representative Lynn Findley  
Representative Andrea Salinas  
Representative Janeen Sollman  
Representative Marty Wilde  
Representative Anna Williams  
Representative Jack Zika

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