

House Committee On Energy and Environment

Testimony in Opposition of House Bill 2656 – March 13, 2019

My name is Hunter Albrecht and I work in the private timber industry. I was able to sit in on the hearing yesterday March 12, 2019 at the capitol and want to express my opposition of HB 2656. I've worked in the private timber industry for 6 years now and it has provided a good income for my growing family. HB 2656 would devastate my family and many other families in rural western Oregon towns where the timber industry is a way of life and means for an income.

What I took away from yesterday's hearing is, that majority of the people in agreeance to the bill do not have the proper knowledge of forestry and the rules and regulations we must follow. I have had the privilege of working in many different sectors of the timber industry including pre harvest layout where we must abide by the rules put in place by the Oregon Forest Practices Act including riparian buffers, leave tree areas, and max acres size. I also have been a part of reforestation where we successfully and safely use pesticides in aerial spray application and replanting of trees in the clear cuts. People in agreeance to this bill have expressed that spray and clear cuts ruin their drinking water which is not true. We have strict laws requiring buffers and mix rates that we must abide by. Majority of the people in agreeance to the bill most likely have a house and most likely use chemicals in their yard to kill weeds such as dandelions or grass in places they don't want it. Majority of those people do not know how to properly calibrate whatever spray device they are using which causes over spray in to small of an area, then when they finish and rinse out the spray device its dumped in their driveway and washed into the nearest storm drain which goes directly to a river. Yet they say we are polluting their water.

I am asking you to look deeper into the arguments that were brought up in the hearing and I think with more research you will find a lot of holes in the arguments that are in agreeance to HB 2656. If you want clean drinking water for downstream communities, continuance of ethical and safe use and management of our states most valuable resource I urge you to oppose HB 2656.

Please vote to OPPOSE House Bill 2656

Thank you for your service to Oregon

Hunter Albrecht