



## TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS.

11675 SW Hazelbrook Road, Tualatin, Oregon 97062

503-218-2580 • [tualatinriverkeepers.org](http://tualatinriverkeepers.org)

[info@tualatinriverkeepers.org](mailto:info@tualatinriverkeepers.org)

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March 15, 2019

Honorable Ken Helm  
Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Environment  
Oregon House of Representatives  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Please Support House Bill 2656**

Dear Chairman Helm:

Tualatin Riverkeepers is a community-based organization that protects and restores the Tualatin River watershed. We build watershed stewardship through engagement, advocacy, restoration, access, and education. The Tualatin River provides many beneficial uses including drinking water to approximately 400,000 people. Much of this supply comes from Henry Hagg Lake whose tributaries are on industrial forest land. We therefore urge you to support House Bill 2656, The Safe Waters Act.

The Safe Waters Act would protect drinking water sources like Henry Hagg Lake from the associated forestry impacts such as increased sediment flow, thermal pollution, and pesticides and herbicides entering the reservoir. As the climate changes water is going to become scarcer making it imperative that we do everything we can to protect the drinking water sources we have. In addition to climate change pressures, the population in Washington County is growing which will result in more residents relying on Hagg Lake and the Tualatin for drinking water. This bill would protect our drinking water by addressing the current weaknesses in the Forest Practices Act. Oregon is falling behind other west coast states when it comes to forestry practices. Washington, Idaho, and California all have stricter requirements and are still able to have a profitable forest industry.

Now more than ever it is critically important to protect our drinking water. Please support this bill and move House Bill 2656 into a work session so that additional information may be considered.

Sincerely,

Ashley Short  
Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator  
Tualatin Riverkeepers  
[Ashley@tualatinriverkeepers.org](mailto:Ashley@tualatinriverkeepers.org)