

To: Representative Helm
Chair, House Committee on Energy and Environment
From: James P. Scott, MD
Re: HB 2656

Dear Representative Helm and members of the Committee - I traveled to Salem on Tuesday with the intent of testifying on this bill, but like many others time didn't permit oral testimony. Please accept these brief comments in strong support of this bill.

I'm an Oregon native, with roots in several parts of the state. As a youth, I developed an appreciation for the forests with which we are blessed as well as our rivers and streams. As a boy scout I participated in replanting the Tillamook burn (earned a 'golden hodag' award for planting a lot of trees). I'm not against logging, but we need to balance using the renewable resources we're blessed with with the clean water and carbon sequestration they provide.

After medical school, I spent 20 years practicing in the Siuslaw watershed - Triangle lake, Deadwood, Swisshome, Mapleton, Florence.. When I went there (1976), logging in the national forests was in full swing - five functioning mills, clearcuts everywhere, lots of aerial spraying - an economy based on resource extraction. Local activists were alarmed about aerial spraying of pesticides and herbicides, but attempts to regulate their use were thwarted by industry. I treated several folks who were 'inadvertently' sprayed on their own properties. Now, over 40 years later, we're still trying to pass sensible regulation of these toxins! Municipal water supplies are threatened by contamination from silt and chemicals. And less noted are challenges for those living outside of municipal systems - often drawing their water from springs or small creeks which can be very adversely affected by timber harvest practices.

I won't go into details on all the scientific evidence for the provisions in this bill, which have been well articulated by others - we know from those that are practicing responsible forestry here in Oregon, and regulations in our neighboring states, that these common sense provisions can allow for timber harvest that is profitable and provides protection for our critical water resources.

I urge you to move this bill to a work session so that additional information can be considered. Thanks for your consideration.

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