

Representative,

On behalf of the Yamhill County Board of Commissioners, I am writing today to strongly urge you to consider the negative impacts of HB 2656 and HB 2659 on the livelihood and economic stability of our constituents who work in the logging, mill and trucking industries..

HB 2656 :The majority of municipal water supply for the west side of Oregon is taken out of rivers. The drainages of these rivers encompasses virtually all publicly and privately owned land. The land is managed for multiple priorities, including forestry and agriculture. These uses are currently managed under a suite of state and federal regulations that effectively manage for water quality and quantity. The productive use of this land is critical to the economic and social stability of many Oregon Counties.

HB 2659: This bill proposes that any managed timberland be assessed the same way as commercial, residential or manufacturing land. The net effect will be drastic for timber land owners who derive no income from the property (but accrue expenses) for the 40-60 years that the trees are growing.

In rural counties, some of the best jobs are in the woods, in mills, and in the trucking industry. These are fully benefited jobs that pay substantially above the average wage, and contribute significantly to social and economic stability in rural Oregon. Below is information gathered from the Oregon Employment Department for coastal Oregon Counties that compares wages in logging, milling and trucking to jobs in the tourism industry and to all public and private sector jobs.

Sector	Ownership	Curry Lane	Annual Average Wage 2017			
			Coos Clatsop	Josephine Columbia	Douglas Oregon	
Total all ownerships (Public & Private)						
	All	\$34,774	\$38,034	\$35,920	\$39,791	\$42,644
		\$51,117	\$36,749	\$38,807	\$51,132	
Total private sector						
	Private	\$31,961	\$35,262	\$34,763	\$38,177	\$41,025
		\$50,483	\$35,757	\$37,322	\$50,501	
Forestry and logging						
	Private	\$42,571	\$50,776	\$59,709	\$45,473	\$50,850
		\$51,264	\$52,951	\$52,343	\$51,274	
Wood products manufacturing						
	Private	\$51,037	\$50,587	\$39,295	\$51,030	\$54,795
		\$49,430	\$60,817	\$44,044	\$49,432	
Truck transportation						
	Private	\$47,258	\$45,742	\$36,378	\$47,940	\$52,38
		\$52,591	\$43,572	\$47,233	\$58,611	\$50,899
Leisure and hospitality						
	Private	\$17,226	\$20,190	\$18,095	\$16,820	\$17,679
		\$21,379	\$21,691	\$16,691	\$21,381	

Source: Oregon Employment Department

There are additional issues with the bill related to unfunded mandates for county assessors. Further, it reallocates property taxes away from the taxing districts (schools, fire, counties, etc.) that would ordinarily receive that funding, and redirects it to other activities.

Please consider these concerns and vote to safeguard our vital industries, knowing that environmental impacts have been mitigated already by state and federal regulations.

Respectfully,

Mary Starrett
Yamhill County Commissioner
Phone: 503.434.7501
On behalf of:
Richard "L" Olson, Chair,
Mary Starrett, Commissioner
Casey Kulla, Commissioner