

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY and ENVIRONMENT

### Testimony in Opposition of House Bill 2656-March 12, 2019

My name is Sean H. Howells. I am a biologist and forester at Cascade Timber Consulting Inc. in Sweet Home Oregon. My company manages 145,000 acres of timberland in Linn County. This is a family owned business that has been in operation since the early 1900's.

The property that I work on is managed under the Sustained Yield Forestry. We are certified by the American Tree Farm System. My company strictly adheres to the Oregon Forest Practices Act. This company works closely with the Oregon Dept. of Forestry and the Linn Forest Protective Association.

I strongly oppose the ban on clearcuts, use of herbicides and pesticides and road building. After harvest my company plants more trees than was initially harvested. We strictly follow the rules and guidelines for application of herbicides. It's vital to use herbicides to control invasive species such as Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberries and Japanese knotweed. All of the species I listed are very bad for the environment and must be controlled. After tests conducted by Oregon DEQ, it was determined the water quality to be the **best** on Forest lands.

The demand for paper products will only increase in time. With global warming there will be more devastating fires and the need for lumber to rebuild burned up structures. Clearcuts in themselves are a good tool to control devastating wildfires. They help prevent the spread of fires.

Overall the timber industry is good for everyone in the state of Oregon. My company helps support the community I live in. If this bill passes many jobs will be affected as there are many companies that are dependent on the timber industry.

**Please vote to OPPOSE House Bill 2656**

Thank you,

Sean Howells

Forester/Biologist

Cascade Timber Consulting Inc.

