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To whom it may concern,

As an Oregonian, I oppose HB 2656. This bill will make it extremely difficult, and near impossible to harvest timber in a way that will continue to support the local economy.

60.5% of the Small Tract Forestland tax goes toward funding the state schools. What has the state proposed to make up this deficit?

HB 2656 has been named "The Safe Drinking Water Act", however information from the Oregon Water Quality Index Data Summery (a nine year study) published in February of 2019, shows that urban areas contribute the most to poor water quality with over 50% of the areas tested came back in the poor/very poor category. Forest land, that up until now would have NOT been operating under the new proposed bill standards, has reported that approximately 75% of the water quality tested returned to the good/excellent range. This would indicate a change needs to be made to urban areas, since they are the worst offenders.

# How do status?

Land use type is determined by the most common land use in a five-mile buffer around the monitoring site. The mixed use type is assigned when none of the other designations made up more than 50% of the five-mile buffer.

The forest land use type has the highest percentage of existing forest land, while the urban and agricultural land use types have the highest percentage of

Oregon has already implemented the Forest Practices Act, which is largely aimed at protecting ALL water sources, just not those that are used for public works. Key parts of these laws include:

- restricted harvest, chemical use, and road building next to all water sources (including wetlands, lakes, and rivers)
- providing buffers of forest and vegetation to shade and provide a natural fish habitat
- restrictions in regards to the construction of logging roads to prevent muddy run-off from entering the water sources
- restricted use of chemicals/pesticides

Oregon also currently operates under the Forest Products Harvest Tax. If private land owners are unable to continue to harvest as they currently do, the money acquired from this tax will dwindle. The following institutions will lose the following percentages to their budgets:

40% will be in danger of being cut from the Administration of Oregon's Forest Practices Act: in charge of protecting soil, air, water, fish, and wildlife. They also help reduce the risk of injury or death from landslides.

10% of the lab research budget will be in danger of being cut from the OSU Forestry Research Laboratory.

50% of the Forestland Protection fund will be in danger of disappearing. This is money that is saved to cover costs of fighting wildfires which can't be handled by local fire stations alone.

100% of the Oregon Forest Resources Institute is funded through the above tax. This committee was implemented to distribute information on Oregon's forest practices and encourages sustainable forest management.

HB 2656 has far-reaching consequences that seem to not have been taken into account. Looking at the proposal information on the Oregon website, they have not provided any details concerning the environmental impact, nor have they provided any potential figures for financial impact to the state.

I ask that you stand up for Oregon's future, and protect the thousands of jobs, the many rural counties, and the unlimited lives that HB 2656 will undoubtedly diminish through loss of their livelihood.

- Stephanie

\*All information included in this message has come from the Oregon.gov website.