

My name is Paul Raphael Zemanek, I am neutral on House Bill 2659 because I believe a better Bill should be enacted. I came on behalf of the Flora and Fauna of the Land and the people, and I am speaking to everybody when I appeal to your Reason because only by Reason can we hope to arrive at Truth, and only by Truth can we correct the ongoing injustices that have been perpetrated against the Forests of this Land and against all Life that depends on them. Because of what they do, Clearcutting and development of Treed Ecosystems = Destruction of Earth = crime against Nature, crime against the Planet, and crime against humanity.

SPECIES

Forests are not just a stand of trees but wonderfully complex Ecosystems that have been here for millions of years and in which the Animals and Plants have slowly co-evolved into a functioning Biodiverse System. When a tree gets to be 200 years old, new Species start appearing on it that have not been there before.

Do you know how many Species dwell on a single mature evergreen tree in Northern California? A professor and students at a school in Northern California few years back have counted 25,000 Species of Organisms. 'Mature' means over 200 years old.

Do you know how many thousands of Species have gone Extinct in these treed Ecosystems because of these unsustainable practices? How could you ever know when you only monitor the biggest Animals, the ones hunters like to kill from which you collect some cash for hunting licenses? When conveniently only 1 DNR Field Botanist is responsible for monitoring the entire Washington State – a state that does not regulate plants; when Oregon State conveniently hires only 3 Fish & Wildlife Field Biologists to monitor the entire state? In effect, the National Forests and State Forests are being treated like a private enterprise – which they are not – and with private timberlands they have been reduced to a rubble – giant tree farms where nothing is allowed to grow over 50 years or so. And it's pervasive! – just look around you, look at satellite images from Space of the Forests and the monstrous Urban Sprawl. It's nothing short of scary. Those who believe that Urban Sprawl has no consequences are wrong.

Forestry is not like every other business, the jobs associated with Forests are not like any other – they cannot be viewed like other ordinary jobs whether finance, food, autos, mining, construction, clothes, what have you. Because Forests, Woodlands, Wooded Fields, and even timberlands are the Foundation of the World which makes Life on this Planet possible.

CLIMATE

Forests directly impact the Climate – and due to the gross Global Forest deficit, this Planet is in the middle of a runaway Greenhouse Effect. Extreme Weather Events are an extreme form of Climate Change which is driven by heat from an overheated Planet. This Global Warming comes from 2 sources: Fossil Fuels (everyone talking about) & DeForestation (nobody talking about). The deForestation comes from 2 places: A. the clearcutting of TREES on public Lands AND private timberlands by big timber companies and smaller Landowners. B. development of Woodlands, Wooded Fields, and timberlands – e.g. through so-called 'conversion' – in cities AND Rural Areas alike, on public AND private Lands.

For example, 450 Acres of timberland were developed by Weyerhaeuser since 2002 at Green Mountain Forest Reserve by Kalama, Washington. 450 Acres = 4 times the size of Vatican City-State! This is just the tip of the Iceberg. So we keep losing Tree Cover to development AND clearcutting.

Between the development and the clearcutting the USA has virtually no significant Tree Cover left that the Planet needs to perform Her critical Climatic functions. Just as Nature has no boundaries, Climate too has no boundaries. Without an adequate Tree Cover – you not only lose the Species, you lose the buffer that causes the wide swings in Temperature of 50-70 °F in a single day; you lose the stability of Glaciers and Sea level; you lose pure Air and Waters; you lose the steady Rainfall;

Why does Israel have more Rainfall now that it had in the last 2000 years? Because Israel has more Trees now than it had in the last 2000 years because of the many orchards they have planted.

How much oxygen does a tree generate? ABC Evening News reported on location few years back that a single **mature** tree in the Brazilian Amazon Rainforest produced the amount of oxygen for a family of 4 for an entire year.

With loss of Tree Cover you lose the health and livability of people; and you bankrupt Treasuries of countries.

The money you make on logs are lost a 1000-FOLD by the effects of Climate Change and Species Extinction arising from these destructive Forestry practices – which are directly responsible for the deaths of thousands of your own fellow citizens by hurricanes ravaging the Gulf Coast States, Forest fires in Western USA, Landslides, mudslides, Flooding, Storms, tornadoes, etc. Do you really believe that the current Flooding in Midwest; the Inland Sea in Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe; the droughts in South Africa and Australia – are separate problems from Forest Cover? They are not: all these are repercussions from these poor Forestry practices. And all the people associated with these practices from politicians to Landowners, from the Pacific Northwest to SE USA, are directly responsible for the deaths, properties lost or damaged, and monies lost due to these Environmental tragedies whether here in the USA or outside of USA. Without sufficiently Biodiverse Forests and sustainable Forestry you lose the Species. Without adequate abundance of Tree Cover you lose the Rain – as we are experiencing now. How does a Forest accomplish stable Temperatures and Climate and steady Rainfall?

Trees = Refrigeration Units of the Planet

In 4 major ways. 1. By absorbing CO₂ – the major Greenhouse Gas – in a big way due to its intricate continually-branching design that maximizes surface area for the very purpose of interacting with the Atmosphere. 2. A single **mature** evergreen tree in the PNW Region of USA transpires up to 3000 GALLONS of Water every day! (Source: College of Forestry, Univ. of Washington, Seattle) Transpiration in a tree means “sweating” which is no different from an animal or person who is cooled on a hot day when the Water inside him is converted to Vapor. Thus, the tree acts as a heat sink, drawing to itself heat from the surrounding Air, converting the Water to Vapor, and sending it upwards where it creates Clouds, which as Rain purify Air and Waters. 3. Clouds block direct Sunlight 4. Trees create shade.

Now if 1 tree can transpire up to 3000 gallons of Water each day, imagine the impact of a 100 trees, or a 1000 trees, or a million+ trees. And imagine what happens when these trees suddenly disappear – whether temporary through clearcutting, and extensive clearcutting; or permanently through development.

The notion that young trees absorb more CO₂ than older mature trees of 200+ years because they grow faster is convenient to use as an excuse for the abusive Forestry practices. The work of Dr. Franklin and his team at UW showed the exact opposite. Furthermore, the cumulative cooling effect from all 4 methods stated above have to be considered, not any taken alone. Even if young trees did absorb more CO₂, they do not come even close to transpiring 3000 gallons of Water per day, and consequently do not produce as much

Moisture and Clouds as older ones, nor do they produce as much shade. The overall cumulative cooling effect is greater for a mature PNW tree than a young one.

People have been urging you for decades not to clearcut, to only harvest smaller sustainable portions at a time, let the trees grow to maturity of 200+ years.

1. Dr. Jerry Franklin: When a tree goes beyond 200 years of age, it absorbs more CO₂ than a younger tree. Let trees grow to 200+ years before harvesting. But you did not listen. You harvest every 50 years or so.
2. IPCC: Protect the Forests, protect the Tree Cover, do not clearcut.
3. Over 1 million young people in 125 countries, 200+ places, around the globe have been skipping school for CC because they want a future. Are you listening to them now?

In the richest country on Earth we shouldn't be so desperate to collect monies for building of schools; it should be allocated from the government (public's money) from the same source that military budgets, infrastructure, and everything else is allocated. A wrong set of priorities is the problem. Schools should be constructed multi-story (8+ stories) instead of typical flat 1 or 2 stories, flat like virtually all of USA is to save money and conserve Open Spaces. Don't cut trees, cut Urban Sprawl to conserve Open Spaces, and lessen the pressure on Woodlands, Wooded Fields, timberlands, and Wetlands from being developed.

Why are we exporting ANY logs to Japan and China when these trees need to remain in place – we need them alive not dead – so they can fulfill the function they were intended for? In the richest country on Earth are we really that desperate?

The rampant and costly infrastructure across USA should be shifted from 4+ million miles of highways and cars to railways and trains to cut the sprawl, combat Climate Change, condense urban areas to improve livability and health of the people, which would also save \$trillions.

As Mr. Oliver Orjiako (director of development in Vancouver, Washington) told me, we need to introduce a new chapter on Climate Change in all 50 US States, and in the USA Constitution. If we want permanent health and a livable future, then we need to enact laws that permanently protect the remaining Forests, Woodlands, Wooded Fields, timberlands and Wetlands from development. And stop the clearcutting inside and outside urban areas, on public and private Lands. We ought to harvest sustainably, allow Biodiversity of trees to stand for 200+ years – That would constitute the true meaning of “Forests” that they are supposed to be, so they can perform the task they were intended for! USA has by far the most Extinct Flora and Fauna of all nations (236 Animals, 30 Plants; OR & WA 14 locally Extinct animals; OR 8 EX animals & 5 EX plants; WA 5 EX animals, 19 EX plants) – is it any wonder, the way we treat Forests, the way we build, fill every Open Space, bulldoze every Wooded Field – and everything is built flat and away from centers of towns? The State Capitols, Salem and Olympia, are no exceptions. Is it any wonder when Washington has only 1 Field Botanist and Oregon a mere 3 Field Biologists? Let us employ more Botanists and Zoologists. These are the basics for a healthy Planet and healthy people, a livable future – basics long missing and long overdue.

I also see this system you have in place – the public having to come to these sessions to plead with you to stop clearcutting – is a corrupt system, and the exact opposite of what it should be. These are public Forests that serve the public in everything they do, the public that pays for their management. It should be loggers who come here asking you which parcel of the Forest they are allowed to harvest. The public's will should be enforced – clearcutting should be banned, and these kinds of meetings should be a thing of the past. Let us have a referendum if we must to stop clearcutting and stop developing the precious Tree Cover.

I would agree with Bill 2659 if its aim would be to stop clearcutting on public and private Lands. But if it aims to merely exploit the clearcuts and logging roads to generate revenue, I don't

support it. I would support it if 100 percent of redirected funds from eliminated tax exemptions would go to protecting the Tree Cover and Species. But if clearcuts are prohibited then the Bill becomes mute. Let us do more than just play with taxes and funds, let us make a radical departure from the abusive Forestry practices and treatment of Land. Ban the clearcuts, hire more Biologists so they can survey the Species, and regulate Plants and Animals on public and private Lands, and build more smartly to cut the sprawl. Let us introduce a new chapter on Climate Change in States' and the nation's Constitutions. Help the Planet and the Common Good. Because if you wait till the last Open Space and the last Wooded Field is developed then we face Environmental Collapse, when it will be too late to save or do anything, society will fail as it should when reason seizes to play a role, and most if not all people will die. Environmental Collapse means no food, no drinking Water, and runaway Global Warming. We can't expect that human self-preservation can ever come by destroying Earth.

I ask you to be part of this solution in making these critically necessary changes, while there is still Time, before its too late and nothing can be done – lest we all perish.

P.S.

USA has 232 Extinct (EX), 4 Extinct-in-the-Wild (EW), and 211 Critically Endangered (CE) **Animal** Species and 23 EX, 7 EW, 115 CE **Plant** Species – by far exceeding that of any other nation in each category. How many other Species have we lost when Washington State has just 1 employed Botanist checking these things, Oregon has mere 3 Fish and Wildlife Biologists surveying the 'other' Species that are not hunted or fished? How can even 100 Biologists monitor these things when development and clearcutting is so rampant and laws so weak?

Washington and Oregon States have 14 extirpated (locally Extinct) **Animal** Species each. According to ORBIC, **Oregon** already lost 13 Species (that we know of) to Extinction: 2 Fish, 1 Bird, 2 Mammals, 2 Insects, 5 **Plants**, 1 Mushroom; 82 are Critically Imperiled [Global (G1) listing]: 39 Snails, 18 Pebblesnails, 2 Clams, 3 Walkers; 1 Earthworm, 1 Pseudoscorpion, 1 Water Flea, 3 Crustaceans, 14 Insects (including Franklin's Bumblebee *Bombus franklini* and Mason Bee *Osmia ashmeadii*); the **ODFW** (Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife) lists 54 Animal Species as 'Critical': 29 Fish, 16 Birds, 4 Frogs, 3 Reptiles, 2 Mammals; federally 9 are Endangered: 5 Fish, 1 Bird, 2 Mammals, 1 Butterfly; 42 are Threatened: 34 Fish, 3 Birds, 3 Mammals, 2 Invertebrates – 10 other Animals are proposed for listing.

Washington State DNR's 'Partial List 2013' cites 5 Extinct, 24 Endangered (Federal status), 15 Possibly Extirpated, 99 Critically Imperiled, and 95 Imperiled (State status) **Animal** Species in the state (www1.dnr.wa.gov). **Washington State** alone has 28 Endangered and 11 Threatened (Federal List) **Animal** Species; 19 Extinct, 189 Critically Imperiled, 114 Imperiled, 19 Vulnerable (State Rank) Plant Species; 60 Critically Imperiled, 9 Imperiled, 3 Vulnerable Moss Species (as of 2012); and 28 Endangered, 13 Threatened, and 1 Extirpated Lichen Species.

It is my feeling that 1000s of Species have already perished in the last century – those 'insignificant' ones nobody knows.