

**Testimony to the House Committee on Water
on HB 2594-1**

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Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Oregon Environmental Council supports HB 2594-1.

Drinking water source protection is a primary concern of OEC. Ensuring that forestry practice rules are sufficiently protective of streams, channels and tributaries that serve as drinking water sources is essential for protecting public health. Additionally, protecting upstream water quality reduces negative impacts on local drinking water providers' physical systems from sedimentation and other pollutants that may be carried downstream.

Periodic review and updates to check existing rules and classification schemes for alignment with current science, best management practices and conditions on-the-ground provides the opportunity to update and recalibrate existing rules. Given changes in hydrology, precipitation patterns, land use patterns and land ownership, it's only sensible to practice an adaptive management approach to ensuring that forest management practices are protective of drinking water sources.

OEC supports HB 2594 with the -1 amendment.