

Carolina Rook

Subject: FW: Yamhill County Opposes HB 2656, HB 2659.

From: Mary Starrett <starrettm@co.yamhill.or.us>
Date: March 14, 2019 at 2:03:26 PM PDT
To: "hee.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov" <hee.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov>
Subject: Yamhill County Opposes HB 2656, HB 2659.

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.

		Annual Average Wage 2017					
Sector	Ownership	Curry Lane Lincoln Tillamook	Coos Clatsop	Josephine Columbia	Douglas Oregon		
Total all ownerships (Public & Private)		All \$51,117	\$34,774 \$38,479	\$38,034 \$36,749	\$35,920 \$38,807	\$39,791 \$51,132	\$42,644
Total private sector		Private \$50,483	\$31,961 \$36,778	\$35,262 \$35,757	\$34,763 \$37,322	\$38,177 \$50,501	\$41,025
Forestry and logging		Private \$51,264	\$42,571 \$50,680	\$50,776 \$52,951	\$59,709 \$52,343	\$45,473 \$51,274	\$50,850
Wood products manufacturing		Private \$49,430	\$51,037 \$52,418	\$50,587 \$60,817	\$39,295 \$44,044	\$51,030 \$49,432	\$54,795

Truck						
transportation	Private	\$47,258	\$45,742	\$36,378	\$47,940	\$52,38
4		\$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	\$20,454	\$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

Accepted by Yamhill County
 Board of Commissioners on
3/14/19 by Board Order
 # 19-80