



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 26, 2020

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building, H271
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on Senate Bill 1602.

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I wish to provide a vote explanation for my “yes” vote on Senate Bill 1602.

The future of Oregon’s forests is of supreme importance to the entire state, but particularly to the members of communities who live nearest to them. Oregon’s forests provide critical habitat for wildlife, are essential for clean air, water, and health, and provide recreational opportunities for Oregonians to get needed exercise and commune with nature. Additionally, when done sustainably, our forests also provide significant economic support for our rural communities and support the jobs of many people who live there.

While I firmly believe that there is still much more to be done in the area of forestry, I believe SB 1602 represents an essential first step in not only advancing safety precautions that will protect people and drinking water, but also creates a bridge that will encourage an open and continuing dialogue between two sides of an issue that often do not communicate. Especially in the face of new and emerging science, and particularly as we look to tackle the challenges posed by climate change, I believe SB 1602 will help us to continue to seek that reasonable balance between the economic contributions of our forestry industry to our local communities, while also prioritizing environmental health.

Key provisions in SB 1602 that I support include important protections for people and drinking water. Oregonians deserve to know when and where the commercial spraying of pesticides will occur for the sake of being able to safeguard their health. SB 1602 allows for any Oregonian living near forestland to register with the Department of Forestry and receive notice of helicopter pesticide application the day before an application is made near their parcel. The bill also prevents helicopter pesticide application within 300 feet from a home, school, or water intake. And on certain subjected forestlands, there also cannot be a helicopter application of pesticides within 75 feet of a Type D or Type F stream.



TIFFINY MITCHELL
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 32



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

I do not believe this is the end of the forestry discussion by any means, but appreciate the step forward SB 1602 takes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tiffany Mitchell".

Representative Mitchell

