

From: [Jack Herbert](#)
To: [Exhibits HNR](#)
Subject: Support for HB 2659
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The timber industry in Oregon is not paying its share of taxes. I understand that they pay only about \$1.83/acre!! And that includes lands where the forests have been ruined by clearcutting and other destructive practices.

We need them, as large landowners of valuable land or land that they have damaged to pay the taxes on what the land is worth if managed responsibly.

We need incentives to keep them from clearcutting, roadbuilding, land clearing and other erosion-producing and all forest removing practices to stop the huge degradation of our forest lands, our streams, and nearby lands and waters. These damages include: increased fire risk, depleted water supplies, increased risk of water pollution and toxic algae blooms, extinction of wildlife and fish, costly landslides, and increased flooding.

HB 2659 would end the unfair tax breaks to big timberland holders and so help get fairer tax payments from them, bringing over \$200 million per year in funds for schools, infrastructure, and social services. Over \$100 million per year could be freed up to invest in climate smart practices that employ far more workers than conventional practices.

This bill helps send a fair share of the unfair, huge profits of big corporations holding our Oregon forests back to the public good, where it belongs!!

This bill provides incentives for maintaining and improving forest's health: Owners of land that is producing timber, leaving behind clean water, supporting wildlife & fish, and sequestering & storing carbon not only keep the tax breaks, but qualify for incentives to continue practices to produce and maintain resilient forests.

Do NOT water down HB 2659!! We deserve it after the legislatures have allowed gutting our forests and streams.

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