

Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

My name is Michael Jamieson; I'm a resident and family forest owner in rural Washington County; retired from 29 years with Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue as a firefighter, Lieutenant and Captain involved in fire suppression; actively involved with forestry for over 50 years, accumulating over 2800 acres of forestland since 1970; member of Oregon Small Woodlands Association; member of the Farm Bureau; member of and former vice-president of IAFF Local 1660 (the second largest Firefighters union Local in Oregon); and father of 3 children ages 25, 9 and 6. I am also a registered Democrat since 1969, although the Party has in recent years drifted away from my view of responsible, transparent and broadly representative governance.

I bought my first 70 acres of timberland, via a long term land sale contract in 1970. My father was a rural mail carrier, and I located the property because it was on his mail route. Since then I bought more land, most of which had been recently logged by someone else such that we now own over 2800 acres of forest land, on which I have planted over 500,000 trees, including over 120,000 with my own two hands. Our forest is certified as meeting the sustainable standards of The American Tree Farm System. I care about the environment. I care about the future of Oregon and of the planet.

Much of the forestland we now own was once farmed fields. Our most recent acquisition in December 2019 is 57 acres including an 18 acre field I planned to plant to forest. Just the threat of SB 1530, as written, has caused us to change our plans and leave it in field for now. The tax and other provisions of SB 1530 will substantially increase logging costs and have an adverse impact on sawmills and other necessary forest infrastructure, decreasing the net price we receive for our timber. The net return of our timberland is now only about \$150 per acre per year, on a 45 year harvest rotation and today's costs and prices. With an anticipated decrease in this financial return, we will probably begin cutting our marketable, but not yet mature timber and convert the land back to pasture and hay, which will give us an immediate financial return and ongoing income on an annual basis. In the current political climate of ever increasing taxes and restrictions, growing a crop that takes 45 years or more to mature does not seem a wise decision. I understand there will be a decrease in CO2 absorption and oxygen generation and I hope you understand this is a consequence of your decisions if you approve SB 1530 as written.

Now that I have explained the impact SB 1530 will have on our personal land use decisions, I would like to address other problems with SB 1530. The lack of transparency and secrecy built into the structure of the proposed Cap and Trade proposal is contrary to what I believe is necessary for representative government in a democracy. A lack of transparency prevents regular public scrutiny and opens the door for conflicts of interest and corruption. Those that buy, sell and profit from the pollution credits market need to be known by the public, and need to pay tax to the State of Oregon on any gains, just as any political contributions made by these entities need to be tracked.

Wealthy corporations like Microsoft, with a market value of over one trillion dollars (Wall Street Journal 1/16/2020 p. A 1) have plans to give the appearance of environmental responsibility. Microsoft Corp. is pledging to eliminate its carbon emissions and invest \$1 billion as part of a wider climate commitment, raising the stakes in the corporate race to show greater awareness of environmental concerns. Its stated goal is to not only curb its carbon footprint but to extract more carbon than it emits by 2030. The next goal for the world's largest software company is by 2050 to remove as much carbon from the atmosphere as the corporation has produced in its 45-year history. (Wall Street Journal 1/16/2020 p. B 1) The article goes on to state part of this plan is "the protection of forest lands." Other than the fact they fail to account for the less than energy efficient operating systems they create and the massive

energy sucking data storage facilities they operate, their plan for "forest protection" is flawed. They fail to account for any social and economic destruction such "forest protection" is likely to cause in affected communities.

My path to SB 1530 came through concern about SB 1536, the "omnibus" Wildfire Reduction and Recovery Bill. I testified at the hearing on February 5, and submitted rather lengthy written testimony. As I spent 29 years fighting fires, and 50 years living 24/7 in the "wildland interface" I felt my experience would make my contributions to improving this bill significant, partly because the bill's provisions did not address some very common causes of fires in our forests. These had to do with "semi-homeless" camping and staying overnight in the forest. After reading about 1530, I realized this was another potential cause for increased fires in our forests.

As all of you are aware, there is a large and growing level of hostility in the rural areas of this State toward State governance in general, and this bill in particular. As I also have a degree in history, I will share some thoughts. The beginning of this country began when a governing elite in England, without empathy for those they governed in the Colonies, placed a perceived unfair burden on the population of those colonies. We all know how that turned out. The Forest Companies recently in the news with Governor Brown are pursuing a reasonable negotiated solution, regarding issues not in SB 1530, to protect their economic interests. Another group Timber Unity, is all about lawful, orderly and civil protests to point out the harmful nature of SB 1530. Yet beyond these organized groups, there are some hostile elements in the rural areas which may "strike back" in any way they can. One of the obvious potential targets is any entity that tries to "preserve" forests in their communities, rather than let that forest provide local economic benefits and jobs. One way to do this is to set these "preserved" forests afire. Oregon has had numerous forest fires started by those just wishing continued fire fighting employment. I fear this current hostility and anger! I worry about about our land, about my land, the public forests, the homes and the lives at risk.

On the other side, if the loss was only some land owned by a rich elite that was disrupting established life in a community, and I was on a jury to judge the action, I might well find it akin to dumping tea into the Boston Harbor.

SB 1536 needs to be put on hold until the next full legislative session so needed changes can be made, especially changes to restore widespread confidence that we have a just and transparent government. SB 1536 needs to be completely re-done if the goal is to reduce carbon and maintain a productive path forward. If the goal of this bill is to raise revenue, creating a secret "slush fund" using carbon reduction as a cover story then it should be thrown out completely. In any case, we need to keep in mind what SB 1536 will do to individual residents of all classes in all parts of this State, and the unintended consequences that may result.