

Chair and esteemed committee members,

Please vote no on HB 2379.

OFRI is crucial to the sustainable forestry practiced by Oregon Small Woodlands owners.

A 5% severance tax would be more than a 600% increase over the current tax, at today's log prices.

OSWA does not support imposing a tax on industrial landowners. They own 22% of Oregon's private forests and small woodland owners 12%. We have had a single harvest on our Tree Farm in almost 21 years of ownership. The large scale timber owners keep the infrastructure of Oregon's Working Forests open for business and keep the mills open for my logs the next time we do harvest. HB 2379 will lead to shorter rotations of harvest on private ground and may lead to conversion and loss of forest acres. Leaving forests as forests and longer rotations will help combat climate change.

A tax based on value has a disproportionate effect on those who have higher logging or hauling costs.

A value-based tax is a disincentive to grow timber longer because as the value increases, you are penalized for it.

Elimination of the EFCC will lead to increased fire suppression costs.

Thanks,

Dave & Sarah Ehlers

J2E Tree Farm, LLC

Hoskins, OR