

I heartily support HB 2379 to reinstate a severance tax which is long overdue.

I suggest some amendments: Small, individual woodlot owners should pay less. REIT's and TIMO's (Real Estate Investment Trusts and Timber Investment Management Organizations) should pay more as they pay no corporate, personal or excise tax in Oregon.

There should be some language for tax incentives for climate wise practices and protecting forests, for example those who have Forest Stewardship Certification, lengthened logging rotations of 80 years or more, for example. Our forests in Oregon are some of the best in the world for carbon sequestration. Perhaps we could pay private forest land owners for NOT cutting the trees for the carbon they store using a portion of the severance tax revenue collected.

More of the revenue should go to the timber counties to be spent as each individual county determines is needed.

A fair amount should go to watershed and riparian protections and restoration projects since the September fires there is a great need for this for drinking water quality and quantity and native plant and animal species habitats.

It's way past time the timber industry pay for the resources they take and harm from logging practices do to water, wildlife habitat, clean air, polluting by spraying herbicides, etc.