

Thank you all for your attention to this vital issue.

This tax needs to be re-initiated and needs to be used by each county to help with their local needs, especially for schools. Some should be set aside for fire protection/plans to reduce the problems with forest fires. It should include (with the fire protection part) reintroduction beavers to help with natural fire breaks, and their ability to help with ground water/alluvial water storage.

Please add to this bill a reduction or elimination of the tax if owners of small Timber businesses (less than 2500 acres) have Forest Stewardship Council certification.

We do not want to continue to support Real Estate Investment Trusts and Timber Investment Management Organizations, traded on Wall Street, who take our trees with no return to our rural communities.

I live near Elmira, Oregon, and see, daily, the logs, too often only one on a truck due to it size, taken from our area. It takes a long time...possibly centuries for trees to grow that large.

Hopefully, you can help restore the tax that was eliminated in the past.

Thanks for you help in this important rural need. Sue Craig