

Chair Nathanson and members of the committee:

I am writing in support of the Timber Severance Tax Bill, HB 2379. Large timber owners have not been paying their share of tax in support of government for decades. It is a ridiculous situation which came about through a series of actions and inactions over several years. It is time to reverse this situation with the passage of HB 2379. Some changes to the bill would make it more effective.

The tax on smaller timber owners should be much less than that of the large corporate owners whose profits leave our state economy quickly and whose short harvest cycle so severely depletes the benefits in water quality and temperature control. Short harvest cycle converts a green house gas (GhG) controlling forest into a source of released GhG. The tax should be greatly less for small owners who adhere to long growth cycle and forest management which promote the long, wide list of healthy forest benefits. The bulk of the revenue should be to general benefit of the counties in which trees are cut. A small amount should be set aside for wildfire management.

Please pass this extremely beneficial and responsible bill with addition of useful modifications.