

The proposed gigantic increase proposed by this bill is extremely detrimental to Oregon Small Woodland Owners. Small tree farmers already donate part of their timberland to riparian buffers, wildlife trees down wood logs, wetlands, vegetation for State wildlife, stream protection to provide clean water for the public, etc. All of these features woodland owners provide to the public with no tax credit, no reimbursement from the public, but yet pay full acreage taxes on their property. Woodland owners have no control over the price of the timber product product they can produce which are logs. Mill set the delivery price & any tax increase to mills will result in passing the tax to the woodland owner by reducing the value of purchase logs. Cost of fuel which has risen 30% in 2 months, cost of labor, increased logging rates from contractors, rising timber falling rates fro cutters, substantial upward rates per hour for log trucking hauling, etc. all have reduced the return to the tree farmer for their 40-60 year wait to produce a merchantable tree to harvest. The one rate woodland owners can control is the selling price of their land for uses other than growing trees & providing free benefits previously mentioned to the public. Real estate prices for land to build more homes has increased tremendously and may be more attractive to the woodland owners than paying this tax increase for harvesting timber. One of the reasons taxes on timber have been kept reasonable is to keep forest land as timberland for growing trees and providing benefits to the public for which they pay no fee or tax.