

Members of the House Committee on Revenue;

I strongly support HB 2379 Timber Tax Fairness. It is clear that the choice to let go of the harvest tax in the 1990's is not something that has worked well for rural communities and instead has benefited the largest timber conglomerates, who at this point are not even corporations but solely market speculators.

I support HB 2379 with amendments that will return to a harvest tax model, with a majority of those revenues to be allocated to rural communities who still depend on timber in their economies.

I'd like to see private timberlands and small timber companies pay a much smaller tax than the large timber investors. I am upset to learn that our valuable timberlands have been put in the hands of people who do not live here or pay taxes here yet reap the benefits of forests they likely have never seen.

Please also consider finding a way to reward the practices such as selective harvesting and longer crop rotations in their management plans. We have to create a way to reward the practices that support long term timber reserves while doing what we can to sequester as much carbon as possible in these valuable lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and make my views considered.

Linda Kelley

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