

Dear Chair and Members, House Revenue Committee:

My wife and I are small woodland owners, with parcels in Washington and Douglas County totaling 220 acres. We have worked hard to be good stewards of these lands, and look for them to be a future “nest egg” for our future. We are very disturbed by some of the bills being introduced in this legislative session, as they seem designed to punish forest landowners, rather than recognize the valuable contributions that our good stewardship provides to all citizens of the state.

HB 2379, and recent amendments, epitomizes the “bad attitude” that some people have toward forest land management, including those managing small woodlands. We strongly urge you to not pass this bill!

Here are some of the reasons why this is not a good bill:

Issues of biggest concern in bill

1. *Elimination of OFRI funding (ORS 321.017) in Section 14 of Bill.*
2. *Elimination of OFLPF (ORS 477.750) and funding (ORS 321.015) in Section 14 of Bill. All landowner costs for large fire will be paid by timber harvesters instead of shared responsibility we have now.*
3. *Elimination of EFCC (ORS 477.440) in Section 14 of Bill. Will increase the suppression costs of large fires.*
4. *Elimination of policy to put out fire (ORS 321.011) and the public to share in cost of fire suppression (ORS 321.012) in Section 14 of Bill.*
5. *Percentage increase in tax for landowners who harvest timber-600% to 1000% depending on value of timber at time of harvest. (\$500-\$800/MBF)*
6. *Downstream effect on entire industry due to increased taxes.*
7. *Creation of Emergency Wildfire Fund with continuously appropriated funds for severity and suppression in Section 5 of Bill. This could put FEMA reimbursements in jeopardy.*
8. *Value tax verses a volume tax on timber production. Increases incentive to grow low value (short rotation) timber which reduces carbon sequestration and may have a negative effect on water quality.*

-5 amendment biggest concerns

1. *Pond value - All must pay tax on value not received. Disproportional effect on those who have higher logging and hauling costs.*
2. *Eliminates GF for East side rate relief of base fire costs and eliminates GF for funding Special Purpose Appropriations for fire suppression.*
3. *Different tax rates based on acreage owned or FSC certification. Splits industry both by ownership size and certification selected.*

Again, Please do not pass this bill forward – it is a bad bill, based on ignorance and/or desire to ppunish or hinder good forest land stewardship!

Thank you

Harold and Patricia Nygren      503-628-5472  
19022 SW Finnigan Hill Road  
Hillsboro, OR 97123