



May 10, 2021

Chair Nathanson and Members of the Committee:

Testimony in Opposition to HB 3160 from Oregon Small Woodlands Association.

I would like to point out that our members who live in the forest zones already pay a surcharge to the department of forestry for any improved lot and any minimum lot they own. This existing tax is used to fund the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund which helps pay for large fire costs and severity resources for firefighting. Those who live in Rural fire protection districts also pay property tax for that service.

In addition, these landowners are paying a per acre charge on all their land inside the forest district boundaries to the department of forestry for base fire protection services. Adding this tax to their insurance policies would be asking them to pay twice for services they are already paying for.

The department in ORS 477.060 has the ability to charge homeowners in forest-urban interface areas and additional \$25.00 per lot per year if the conditions warrant it. Under ORS 477.062 the State Forester has the authority to demand hazard abatement on forest land if he determines it necessary and charge the landowner for completing it should the landowner not comply.

These authorities have been used very infrequently, if ever, since established in 1997. It is unfair to now charge insurance purchasing landowners a tax on their insurance to address the same issues which could be dealt with via existing laws.

Thank you for allowing for me to testify.

Roger Beyer
OSWA, Lobbyist