

OPPOSITION TO SB 5518

I respectfully ask for your time and consideration in not shifting the entire Admin Pro-Rate onto the shoulders of hard-working timberland owners.

Throughout my 30 plus years working as a timber manager in central and eastern Oregon, I have always made our logging equipment and skilled labor available for fire suppression when needed. We have fought many fires large and small through the years. We have an excellent relationship with all three of the forest protection districts we work with: Klamath-Lake District, Central Oregon District and Walker Range Forest Protective Association. We all help each other out for the greater good. Why should we be burdened with having to pay more?? Would those dollars actually go to work on the ground keeping fires small and inexpensive? I have my doubts.

Some legislators seem to think that with this current lumber market, we landowners can afford this increase in fire protection cost. The fact is, while the lumber market is high now, it won't always be, but the extra cost of the Admin Pro-Rate will remain regardless. The sawmills (most that don't own their timberland) won't be paying this additional cost. Sawmills are making good money now. Timber owners face a different market when selling their logs. Our stumpage prices have remained relatively flat, while our costs of production continue to climb.

Why should we be de-incentivized to provide our skilled labor and equipment to efficiently keep fires small?

This funding shift makes no sense to me.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, it is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Chris Johnson
Executive Director Timber Operations
Shanda Asset Management
Sunriver, Oregon