

Co-Chairs Senator Taylor, and Representative Reardon, and Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittees on Natural Resources:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on SB 5518. My name is Annabelle Morgan and I live in Washington County and own forestland in Lincoln County.

I am writing in opposition to the cost shift from allocating revenue from landowner's Timber Harvest Taxes for the ODF Fire Budget from 40% to 50%. Besides the current 40% of Harvest taxes funding this part of the ODF budget, forestland owners also add to the large fire fund through payments to the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund (OFLPF). In addition, forestland owners invest money, time, and energy in activities which mitigate fire danger on their lands and also often use their equipment in fighting fires on both public and private lands, farms, and homes to which the fire may spread as it did this past year. Since the majority of fires are caused by the public, they need to be contributing at least 60% to ODF's fire protection costs. Forestland owners should not be the ones shouldering more of the cost for the budget. Please maintain the present present 40/60% means of funding ODF's fire budget. Thank you.

Annabelle Morgan