

June 2, 2021

House Revenue Committee

RE: Oppose HB 2070 as amended

Chair Representative Nathanson, Vice Chairs Representatives Pham and Reschke and members of the committee,

My name is Mike Barsotti. I am a family forest landowner in the Lyons area, and a member of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association. OSWA opposes the amended HB 2070. We believe that the current process for setting agencies and programs Oregon Forest Harvest Tax rates should continue as is.

Funding needs between the agencies and programs receiving Harvest Tax funding rise and fall completely independent of each other. For example:

- The Private Forest Accord, formally referred as the MOU, could increase the need for additional Oregon Department of Forestry positions. If this is the case, ODF will need additional Harvest Tax dollars.
- The Oregon Forest Land Protection fund has been stable for years because its annual spending cap has been the same for a number of years. If this spending cap were to change, its rate would need to change. Also, there are current built-in processes for reducing the OFLPF Harvest Tax rate as its balance increases.
- Annual harvest volumes and ending balances vary by year with each requiring a unique adjustment in its Harvest Tax rate.
- Automatic cost of living increases will not reflect calculated needs. Too little or too much may be collected.
- Harvest Tax dollars are forest landowner money and this bill does not have a process for refunding excess landowner dollars.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my opposition. Please reject this amended HB 2070.