

Please vote NO on HB 2070, 2430, 2379, 2379 and HB 2598! We cannot afford more taxes.

We just lost over a million acres to wildfire, we're struggling to get contractors, roads built, loggers, truckers, coming up with new ways to sort logs in the log yards based on severity of burns, we're still dealing with COVID-19 practices, added costs, added sick-days, and everything else, and you in the legislature are trying to add a new timber tax. Please don't kick us while we're down and hemorrhaging!

Across our state, more than 100,000 Oregonians are unemployed and more than 2,100 have tragically died from the coronavirus.

But instead of extending a helping hand, you in the state legislature propose new timber taxes and increasing timber taxes that will hurt jobs and businesses already struggling to survive. Oregon spends more money per person than in 46 other states. Oregon has had record tax revenue years but you Legislators want more.

Please give us a chance to rebuild what we've lost and are struggling through. Please protect employees, our families, our communities from yet another tax on businesses that support our livelihoods.

We cannot afford more taxes. An increased severance tax, increased taxes and more taxes will not bring back our burnt forests, but it will make the cost of building a new home or adding on to an existing home more expensive, which in turn makes the cost of living here in Oregon increase as well.

The million acres we lost last year has already made lumber expensive. The salvaged lumber has different degrees of burned fiber, some of it is unusable. Timber companies who manage their trees will make sure to get the salvageable timber off the ground, but who knows what it's worth until they try and make lumber. The cost of salvaging timber is great, and the return isn't as much as it would be if it weren't burned. It's not the right time to add another tax or increase taxes.

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Sincerely,
Jen Hamaker