

A new timber tax will do nothing to help recover, replant and restore the one million acres burned last year. A new timber tax will do nothing to rebuild the communities and jobs destroyed by the wildfires. A new timber tax will do nothing to re-open closed businesses. In fact, a new timber tax from HB 2379 will make a bad situation even worse.

The magnitude and devastation of the 2020 wildfires was due in large part to decades of poor forest management on public lands. A wise response, as opposed to the childish response of taxing those not at fault, would be to implement sustainable forest practices that routinely harvest/thin and replant the forests. This will produce revenue which can offset wildfire costs while minimizing the magnitude and devastation of wildfires.

It is time for Oregon elected officials to grow-up and take wise action.

Thank you for your service.