

Dear Chair Witt, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Hudson, and members of the Committee,

I would like to state my opposition to HB2389. A tax with a rate that is subject to inflation, and takes the rate amount out of legislators hands, is a bad idea for Oregon. Surely you don't want to give up this control since you stand in the gap for your constituents. Who will oversee and decide what the rate is? I'm afraid of small timber owners being rated out of business and selling off to big out of state corporations, who have no community ties and no regard for every day Oregonians.

I live in a rural community who's existence is dependent on timber. From the paper mill, sawmill, on down to the local restaurants and grocery stores, it all runs off timber dollars. This has been an unprecedented year of hardship due to Covid, the historical wildfires, and the recent ice storm. Most businesses in Oregon are already hurting, some to the breaking point. I really feel this increase in tax would just add to that hardship. Please let Oregonians recuperate from this last year before considering new taxes, or increases.

Thank you for your consideration,
Belinda A. Coalman