

Members of the HC on Agriculture/Natural Resources: My name is Tony Koontz, a resident of Brownsville, Oregon and a proud owner of an 800 acre ranch with its origins 161 years ago, when it first became part of my family. I am a 5th generation owner and manager of this property. I am currently retired as a former teacher, coach and athletic director for 36 years in the state of Oregon. First let me thank each of you for your service to our great state. I appreciate your efforts to guide this state via the democratic process.

I testify today on behalf of myself, my sister, my wife, two grown children, their spouses and 3 great grandsons. We run about 50 head of cattle on a 300 acre parcel and actively manage our timber on the remaining 500 acres. We first began active management of the timber in the late 90's, where we began a process of rehabilitation of our timber sites after natural regeneration from logging that occurred about the time I was born in 1954. To date, we have logged and replanted all viable sites with a mixture of Douglas Fir, Grand Fir, Incense Cedar and Willamette Valley Pine. We concluded our last harvest in 2019. Thanks to the lead of the Oregon Department of Forestry and previous legislators like yourself, our sites are fully stocked and growing for future harvest. Our White Oak Savannahs continue to provide natural habitat for a variety of species. Blacktail Deer, Roosevelt Elk, Black Bear and Cougar are normal sites on our property, as are many smaller mammals, birds, etc.

We have utilized downed wood and culled trees to provide firewood for the communities around us, as well as a small saw mill to create lumber for fence and repairs and slabs for tables and other natural furniture items. All of our endeavors allow us to pay our property taxes (in excess of \$8000.00 per year), as well as covering the expenses of running the operation, much of which comes in an effort to protect our property from the threat of wildfire (we had a 50+ acre burn about 18 years ago as a result of a careless smoker who discarded his cigarette out his window). These items include a D5 Cat, Freightliner truck with 1600 gal., tank and fire hoses, a 525 gallon fire trailer, all of which I make available to my neighbors in case the need should arise.

I come to you today in opposition of HB 2379. I will use numbers from our last and final harvest in 2019. Approximately 434 mbf gross/387 net mbf. Gross Income: \$210,902(not high grade logs). Logging Costs: \$121,636. Marketing/Direct Costs: \$8,000. Harvest Tax: \$1550(25mbf exclusion). NET \$80,388

Applying the same numbers AND the proposal of HB 2389:

IF tax (5%) is based on stumpage value of the timber: AN ADDITIONAL \$4,019 !

IF tax (5%) is based on retail value of the timber: AN ADDITIONAL \$4463!

Proposal would nearly TRIPLE taxes for harvest.

We currently already pay in excess of \$2000 per year in Forestry Fire/Surcharge as well as 2 local fire district (Brownsville/Harrisburg) assessments and bonds.

Under current proposals, the motivation to change from forest production to something else is dramatic. We believe that it is in the best interest of all Oregonians to keep forests as forests for the future...carbon capture & storage, wildlife habitat, clean water and recreation. Renewable resources, like timber are not to be compared to items like coal and natural gas, which when "severed" are not longer available. Timber is renewable and Oregon leads in the requirement to replant and maintain the renewability of this valuable resource.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our perspective on this critical issue. Feel free to contact me with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

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