

The Oregon legislature is taxing us to death. It's killing businesses and hurting all citizens. It's driving up the cost of living in this state dramatically. Timber owners already pay property tax and income tax and harvest tax and on and on. Especially this year, with the effects of a pandemic, and devastating fires, businesses don't need new taxes on top of an already struggling economy. The legislature already imposed a new corporate sales tax this year, during a pandemic, even though the voters overwhelmingly opposed the same ballot measure in the previous election. Where is the representation of the people? Any new tax (like the CAT tax just imposed) will be passed through for consumers to pay. Why do lawmakers not understand this? A new severance tax will drive up the cost of building materials and wood products even more, making housing less affordable for all Oregonians. Please don't pile on a new tax for struggling businesses and industries. It's going to eliminate jobs and will be the beginning of downfall, getting worse and worse until it can no longer exist. Increasing taxes and hurting businesses will lead to less overall revenue collected - don't kill the golden goose. Timber owners have kept the land forested, provided habitat for wildlife, discouraged deforestation and development, paid taxes, and improved carbon storage on their property - don't punish them for it. We all benefit from healthy forests. The Oregon Dept. of Forestry already regulates forestry operations and requires sustainable harvesting and replanting. Small family woodland owners have protected their forests for generations - DON'T PUNISH THEM FOR IT!