

Mr Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am A small timber owner in Oregon.

Oregon is becoming A very difficult place to try to be in business. A severance tax is not intended for A renewable resource like timber. Reinstating A severance tax encourages timber owners to convert their timberland to other uses, like agriculture, homes and industrial uses. Young healthy Trees provide oxygen and sequester carbons, provide habitat for wildlife and contribute to clean, cool water.

Oregon has continued to tax folks at every turn. When the CAT tax was introduced I could not even fathom A tax based on every dollar that came through the door before expenses, payroll, insurance payments and workers comp and other taxes were paid. To think we would be taxed on every dollar made us shudder. This tax has been the straw that broke the camel's back as far as donating back to the community. Another tax for us may determine whether we can continue to stay in business.

Up front costs for timber production include tinning, pest and fire prevention, harvesting, cleaning up and then buying and replanting expensive trees. Growing trees is an expensive business.

Do NOT push this bill through to the floor. Please use common sense and good judgement.

thank you  
Kay King