

The need to tax large corporations for their use of forest lands is needed. The big companies have stripped bare a large percent of the watershed of my town, Dallas. About 80 percent of our 20,000-acre watershed is under the management of big companies. And the damage done to the land is cumulative.

So why am I opposed to this bill?

Because of my friendship with a family who own and manage forestland, a family that depends on the forest as its only income. If their small holdings are lumped with the big companies and taxed accordingly, they will be destroyed; their dedication to produce wood sustainably for 40 years, will be wiped out instantly. In their area, the forest they care for benefits the local economy and provides water.

This family has sacrificed financially over decades to manage their land with an eye to protecting the land. They mill and sell the wood they harvest, a benefit to the local economy.

Consider that many small woodlot owners make a living, not off their trees, but elsewhere; the harvest of trees is supplemental income.

My friends with their forest are dependent of their trees --- please consider that not all foresters are massive corporations or hobby forests. Details matter, care must be taken with this bill.