

No on HB 2379, HB 2430, and HB 2389

I am a 3rd generation tree farmer. After 30 years of managing 1000 acres of small woodlands, my family has yet to see any net profit, after paying the many expenses and taxes associated with woodland ownership. The 5% severance tax proposed in HB 2379 is actually a 6 to 8-fold increase in harvest taxes and I don't know where the money will come from.

Timber is a long term crop, and while timber markets recently spiked, this was due to "remodeling's Covid demand" and disruptions in the supply chain caused by this summer's horrendous wildfires that started on public lands and instead of putting it out when it was quite small, the federal and state government elected to "watch it". Landowners can't respond to such peak markets, as it takes more than a year to organize a harvest and loggers are fully booked in peak markets. To pounce on large companies reporting a profit spike is short sighted, as they need to survive market dips as well. We desperately need reliable access to mills and markets. The industry is in a precarious long-term balance between landowners, mills, and markets, and this balance will be significantly disrupted by the proposed severance tax.

We have always harvested in average market conditions and logging, hauling, road building, slash piling, replanting, and spraying costs are constantly increasing.

While we were spared from this summer's wildfires, we recently had a horrendous ice storm that damaged or destroyed 40% of our trees, which is an obvious gut punch to our financial condition. We surely can't survive a 6 to 8-fold increase in harvest taxes.