

Good afternoon, and thank you for taking our testimony into consideration regarding these bills.

I would first off like to point out that logging companies have diminished in size and numbers. For a number of reasons, Some of which could have and should have been prevented on a legislative level, I feel. Additionally, the fire damaged timber trees have 18 months at most to be harvested, or it will be un-salvageable. That requires large expenses to have to be able to harvest that within such a short window. These bills do not help in those efforts. Despite relief and volunteer efforts to assist, It does us no good to try and ease these financial burdens, when there are bills being formed to ADD to those costs and concerns.

You may be unaware of this at the time of this writing, but seedlings are in extremely short supply due to the fires and over 1 million acres burning. Seedlings are 2 years old. Those seedlings cannot be pulled from somewhere else as elevation, climate, soil, and many variables which play into their viability in their respective environments cannot be met. They will not thrive. Because of this, you certainly won't see these seedlings in your local stores like Walmart and Fred Meyer, as once was the case. They simply cannot be sourced elsewhere. This is a problem on a local level. Why? There are zero available. The cost of what is left will already 'tax' timber landowners heavily. What they do NOT need, are additional financial burdens.

For these two reasons alone, taxes should not be levied on an already heavily taxed industry during a time of unprecedented unemployment due to a universal pandemic, natural disasters and challenges many are still facing from the recent "Fire and Ice" events which have greatly compromised the good citizens of our state. We know what these folks are facing, because it has been us, boots on the ground, heading up recovery efforts. You have to know what we have seen and what we know and how these bills will damage these communities both financially and emotionally.

Our beloved rural areas are home to most of these timber jobs, and these are the areas that were hit the hardest by unimaginable disaster. To burden the industry in the wake of such devastation is unthinkable. Unconscionable. Unnecessary. Let's help them. Not hurt them. We can do better, and I am asking you to do just that.

Thank you.