

Thank you for considering my testimony. Timber counties need the revenue lost when Oregon's severance tax was eliminated in the 1990s. Since then, we have lost untold millions in tax revenue and Wall Street backed industry consolidation, and it's passed time we rectify that. There is more than enough evidence in the public record to show how a severance tax will benefit rural timber communities like mine, and I would be more than happy to provide documentation.

However, I have major issues with the bill as currently written. First and foremost, I believe a much higher percentage of the proceeds should go directly to the counties, instead of the largest chunk being used for a new wildfire fund. Second, I believe you should consider increasing the overall tax rate. I also support including watershed protection provisions, and raising or eliminating the cap for violations of the Forest practices act.

We need forestry reform, we need it now, and we need it to be strong and comprehensive. Thank you for your consideration.