

Please opposing these bills!!

HB 2379

HB 2389

*A new tax on timber will eliminate jobs and businesses in rural communities that are already suffering multiple extreme hardships.

* Reinstating a severance tax encourages conversion of forestland to other uses (residential, industrial, agricultural) that do not provide environmental benefits like carbon capture and storage, wildlife habitat, clean water, and recreation.

* Up-front costs (planting, thinning, pest and fire prevention) aren't recouped for 40 years or more, provided trees aren't destroyed by mother nature before then. To pass more taxes now will cut into the amount of revenue timberland owners will have to manage their forests.

*Adding and increasing taxes to small tract timberland owners would increase the possibility of them selling. RIET's would swoop up those properties for pennies on the dollar for the benefit of some wealthy east coast investors, and/or encourage Urban Sprawl. Neither are good for Oregon or our forests.

* Restoration back to healthy, thriving forests maximizes the forest's ability to sequester and store carbon. Replanting after severe fires protects water quality in rivers and streams by reducing soil erosion. This helps to ensure clean water for fish and wildlife and for drinking. Adding and increasing taxes takes away from the pool of money that enables proper forest management and returning our forests to health.