

Submitter: Richard Vander Velden  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

My name is Richard Vander Velden

First a little history; In 1975 Oregon was most instances fat and happy, Salem had nearly all the funds they wanted. 21% of its budget, 100sof millions of dollars came out of Southern Oregon into the Salem coffers.

Roll up to 1980 and the scheme to cripple Oregon; a non-native invasive owl is put on the endangered species list. 10 years later the owl is doing fine so Oregon's enemies find a endanger tree frog and 10 years after that the Marbled Murrelet.

Since the 1980s, appointed bureaucrats in BLM and the US Forest Service have cut timber sales to approx.1/500 of the sustainable yield mark, draining that 21% tax income down to a starvation level of 5%.

BLM and USF have unlawfully sold large tracts of public lands to private entities for pennies on the dollar, after they were replanted. They have ignored good forest maintenance, used funds to close off needed forest roads, with gates or demolition, which has contributed to today's massive wildfires. They have closed down almost half of the fisheries contributing to our Salmon now being on the current endangered species list.

So here we are today, most counties barely scraping by, begging Salem for monies we shouldn't need, but do. Oregon now pays more out more for its southern counties, than it receives. Burdensome taxes being added for social agendas thoughtlessly fitted into SB 5506.

The state doles millions for our schools, which isn't enough anymore, but Salem can frivolously waste tax funds for un-needed EV charging stations, Climate adaption and Gender Neutral programs plus all those small houses that are already being ruined by homeless drug addicts.

SO WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT IT, HOW DO WEFIND A FIX? This is not 1859, we are no longer a fledgling state, just a poorly run one. If you want to financially repair Oregon, lower lumber prices by 75%and free up millions for Salem's social projects. We need to have the BLM and US Forest Service return guardianship of said forests over to the counties, as the US Supreme Court and The O&C Act of 1937 stipulated and planned for.

By returning the forests to the counties it frees southern Oregonians from beholding

to Portland. It frees up almost \$800 a year and it puts us Oregonians back in charge of our own future.

To start the fix you need to say NO to SB 5506, as it is written. Thank you for your time.