

Submitter: Susan Watkins

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure: HB4133

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters, Members of the Committee:

My husband and I own a small forest in Yamhill County. I am trained as a Master Woodland Manager and have served on the board of my local chapter of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association and, for two terms, on the state Committee for Family Forestlands (appointed by the Board of Forestry to represent small land owners' interests before the Board), including a year as interim Chair.

Like other landowners, my husband and I are concerned about wildfire and manage our woods to decrease fuels and protect our trees. We recognize that funding the state's efforts to prevent and respond to wildfires protects our interests. But the fires of the past few years have shown all too vividly that preventing and suppressing wildfires is a concern for all Oregonians. In fact, when one learns of a serious fire, it's because homes and lives were threatened or lost, not because valuable trees burned.

We support efforts to stabilize fire funding that acknowledges the benefits wildland fire fighting and prevention offer all Oregonians.

Sincerely,
Susan Watkins