

Submitter: Eric Kranzush

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure: SB1593

Dear Chair Meek members of the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee,

I write to express my opposition to SB 1593. This bill, initially proposing an exorbitant increase in our sector's harvest tax to fund wildfire prevention, has morphed into a thinly veiled attempt to push through a severance tax agenda under the guise of a "study" on long-term wildfire funding.

It is abundantly clear from the language of the amendment that this "study" is nothing more than a scripted effort to lay the groundwork for advancing a severance tax concept in the future. This approach fails to recognize the unique nature of timber as a renewable resource, distinct from non-renewable resources like coal and fossil fuels.

Moreover, a recent economic study by Ernst & Young, a nationally recognized firm, underscores that the forest products sector already shoulders a disproportionate tax burden compared to other Oregon business sectors. Additionally, the forest products industry has recently undertaken significant investments due to legislation like the Private Forest Accord, demonstrating its commitment to responsible forest management.

Furthermore, it is concerning that the Legislature already allocated funds for a wildfire funding study in 2020, which the sponsor of SB 1593 supported. We do not need to squander more taxpayer dollars on redundant studies that only serve to advance an anti-forestry agenda and burden an already heavily taxed sector.

I urge you to reject SB 1593.

Thank you,

Eric Kranzush, MBA
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