

I support SB 1593.

The passage of the bill will provide essential services to counties that are losing revenue from timber land. Private forest owners above 500 acres are predominately forest owned by stock holders and revenue from the forests no longer serve oregon.

The industrial forests due to forest management techniques of clearcutting and short rotation cycles are causing ecological damage costing the counties to increase their services and expenses.

Industrial forests have higher fire risk, 50% decrease in water retention, increased risk of flooding and erosion, damage to streams, loss of wildlife and salmon all leading to increased cost to counties and reduction in revenue. With climate change these forests need to be carbon sinks with longer rotation.

The restoration of the severance tax will pay for the increased costs of firefighting and restoration and reward those who manage their forests ecologically with lower tax rates..