

Submitter: Kelli Klein

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure: SB1593

I support SB 1593. I am a rural land owner, and steward a small stand of 34 acres of forest.

The passage of the bill will provide essential services to counties that are losing revenue from timber land, AND would help support amazing programs like FireWise, Wildfire workforces, and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Council (and many others) that helps protect people, property, and businesses... our economy - AND our vital drinking water coming from protected watersheds.. This is the highest and best use of these funds.

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.

Privately owned 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. We need our forests to stay standing longer to become carbon sinks with longer rotation. The restoration of the severance tax will pay for the increased costs of protecting families, businesses and property with home hardening, support firefighting, and restoration and support those who manage their forests ecologically with lower tax rates. This bill makes so much sense given the increased fire risks to our communities and economy - and balances the scales for the benefit of the people.