

Submitter: Fred Williams

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure: SB1593

We don't need to spend more of Oregonians' tax dollars to help with a pre-determined outcome pave the way for increasing taxes on the timber industry. This study would contemplate increasing timber harvest taxes by nearly 650 percent.

According to economic research, the timber industry already pays 1.5 times more than other Oregon business sectors, just made costly investments through the Private Forest Accord and is still reeling from the \$5.9 billion in economic impact from the 2020 Labor Day fires.

Furthermore, forest landowners in Oregon ALREADY directly pay more for fire prevention and suppression than in any other state and the real reason fire costs are increasing is from lack of management on federal forests – NOT active management on private land that reduces wildfire risk.

This bill claims to study a way to fund wildfire but the Legislature already funded a quarter of a million dollar study on wildfire funding in 2020. We don't need another costly study.

This isn't even a true exercise in academic study – it's a lopsided attempt to gather information that will help one legislator make a case for increasing taxes on the timber industry in 2025.

The Private Forest Accord legislation (2022) was very costly for the timber industry and the full effects of it are only just being felt. And according to recent economic research, Oregon's timber industry is already taxed at a much higher rate than other businesses.