

Submitter: Sean Smith  
On Behalf Of: Starfire Lumber Co  
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue  
Measure: SB1593

Timberland owners are swimming upstream all the time. They see no ROI for their timber for 30-40 years after the considerable expense of planting, spraying, road maintenance, thinning, fertilizing and all of the other costs associated with long-term management of an asset. Throughout that time they're at constant risk that a fire, insects or disease will wipe out their crop before it has any commercial value and they'll be forced to start over--a total loss with added clean-up and reforestation expenses thrown into the bargain. They also bear additional expense and hassle constantly protecting their lands from trespass and vandalism. The current system of timber taxation reasonably reflects these realities, whereas SB1593 will only add unnecessarily and uneconomically to the burdens timberland owners face, and incentivize conversion of much of this acreage to less burdensome, more profitable uses. Moreover, as with most added government burdens these advantage huge corporations with economies of scale, personnel and equipment at the expense of everyone else. SB1593 is a solution looking for a problem, and I strongly oppose it.