

Submitter: Paulette Wittwer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure: SB1593

Dear Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

I support 1593-1 that sets up a plan to study increasing the timber severance tax in large forests (over 500 acres). This way industrial owners will be required to pay their fair share. The increased revenue can then go to cash-strapped counties mostly in timber areas. Those counties can use the revenue for fire mitigation services, to repair watersheds damaged from clear cuts and for schools and services.

Landowners who manage forests with conservation principles, including longer growing rotations, should get a tax break. Oregon drastically reduced the timber severance tax two decades ago and the impact has been very hard on counties. It's time to reevaluate. BTW, I speak from the perspective of having a family-owned woodlands. Thank you. PW