

Submitter: Trygve Steen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure: SB1593

Hello, Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

Unfortunately, the oral testimony email provided by "Van Lisa" did not provide any link or adequate information to allow me to deliver my prepared testimony. That is a problem that needs to be solved. Further, today's hearing left little time for testimony after the extended time taken by Senator Steiner.

My intended Oral Testimony:

Good Afternoon Chair Meek and committee members.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

I appear today to strongly support SB 1593 and amendments

For the record I am Professor Steen. For more than 45 years, I have engaged in teaching university courses focused on Sustainability in relation to how we can responsibly take environmentally related actions.

Oregon's private forests have been increasingly managed by Wall Street real estate trusts and investment funds. They have likely been attracted by Oregon's favorable tax structure and by comparison with neighboring states, relatively lenient regulations that have related to logging. This has brought widespread clearcutting on cycles of 25 to 40 years, with an associated major increase in fire risk and costs that occur because of these young forests and the impacts of climate change.

SB 1593 represents an important step in making these forest management operations shoulder more responsibility for costs that have been carried by the people of Oregon and includes an important incentive to promote Forest Stewardship Council certification.

SB 1593 restores a Timber Severance Tax, which was eliminated in the 1990's. Thereby, this legislation supports an important group of increasingly significant state obligations: First, to pay for increasing fire related expenses; Second, to fund timber dependent county governments by making up for revenue losses that began back in the 1990's, when a the historic Severance tax was eliminated; and Third, to support increased watershed health in order to increase water quality and quantity, both of which are adversely impacted by short cycles of clearcutting and fires.

It is my hope that the study results done in relation to SB 1593 do manage to provide appropriate levels of support for the features of the original bill that I have listed in the above paragraph.