Submitter:                                          Denice Searcy

On Behalf Of:                                       NO MORE TAX INCREASES

Committee:                                          House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:                      HB2072

NO on HB 2072

The Act would extend three taxes on the privilege of harvesting forest products and set the new tax rates.
The tax helps fund:
• ODF's fire protection program
• ODF's administration of the Forest Practices Act
• Oregon State University's forestry programs
• Oregon Forest Resources Institute

Fire protection and OFRI rates are addressed through other statutes and processes. The harvest tax is not easy to administer and raises no revenue for either the counties or schools. Instead, the tax benefits the timber industry, much like a commodity commission. Oregon needs a better system of timber taxation than this bill. Past legislatures eliminated the severance tax that supported schools and public services including local fire departments, which has been a detriment to rural counties. Amounts going to the current programs should be frozen and additional amount should go back to county fire and emergency departments and communities.

If we already closed many lumber mills in the last 15 years, why do you want to raise more taxes upon an industry that is dying because of utopian policies? Currently fuel prices have doubled, food, electric and insurance on homes, cars and businesses have gone up at least 50% in the last 4 years, therefore I am opposed to ANY new taxes and propose instead that the legislature be more fiscally responsible with what we have. For instance, $1.4 billion in our tax monies has been given to illegal aliens in this state so you want to tax us to "Kingdom Come' to compensate for this illegal appropriation to people who are not even citizens.

The timber industry is the only industry actually managing our forests. We wouldn't have to increase taxes to pay for more wildfire funds if the state and government actually managed our public lands. Figure out how to manage your funds and your forests better!

NO MORE NEW TAXES!!!

Vote NO on HB 2072.