

April 16, 2025

House Committee On Revenue

Re: Oppose HB 3489

Chair Rep. Nancy Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Rep. Werner Reschke, Rep. Jules Walters and members of the committee,

My name is Mike Barsotti. I'm a family forest landowner, a forester for 50 years, an Oregon Department of Forestry retiree and a member of Oregon Small Woodlands Association and the Oregon Tree Farm System.

I'm opposed to this bill for several reasons which include:

- Wildfire costs are increasing and we need an equitable way to be prepared to pay for wildfire suppression costs. Equitable means an all Oregonians strategy and a large group has been working on this. This bill is not equitable. It put the burden on the backs of us forest landowners. It ignores HB 3940 and all that has been discovered by the group working on wildfire suppression costs.
- The bill eliminates the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI). OFRI through its publications and support for family forest owner education has been so valuable for landowners and all Oregonians. Knowledge on sustainable forest management is constantly growing. Even with a career in forestry, I continue to learn new ways to improve the health of my forest. OFRI publications and workshops are important ways I learn more about multiple resource management. Past concerns of OFRI administration have be addressed and corrected.
- There is no justification for the State of Oregon to favor one forest certification system over another. This bill acts as if only the Forest Stewardship Council is a valid forest certification program and provides incentives for landowners who use this program. The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) is an international organization that evaluates and approves forest certification programs that have sustainable forestry practices. The Oregon Tree Farm System as a part of the American Tree Farm System is approved by PEFC and thus a legitimate forest certification system. My forest is certified through the American Tree Farm System.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my thoughts on this ill constructed bill.

Mike Barsotti