

Submitter:

Daniel Robertson

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3489

I am an OSU graduate professional forester with 55 years of experience in managing timberland and growing trees. I work with both large landowners and small landowners. This excessive taxation of timber will only exacerbate the difficulty of growing new timber for harvest. Due to the high cost of logging, reforestation and young growth forest management, landowners can barely afford to properly manage the timberland resource. Over the last 20 years this lack of reform on investment has and is currently leading to less than desirable management of our young forests. I recently consulted with a small landowner in his harvesting of a 30 acre block of mixed conifer and hardwoods that had been initially poorly managed by the previous landowner. The logging, hauling and reforestation cost consumed over 70 percent of the gross receipts from the harvest BEFORE taxes. The only reward for this landowner was the "feel good" of returning this timberland to productivity. Your proposed legislation would have prevented the rehabilitation of this timberland to a healthy forest.