

Submitter: Nancy Hathaway  
On Behalf Of: OSWA  
Committee: House Committee On Revenue  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3489  
To: House Revenue Committee April 17, 2025  
Subject: Severance Tax HB 3489

I am definitely opposed to HB 3489 for 2 reasons.

First, NO to increasing the Severance Tax. I am a small woodland owner with varying ages of seedlings, saplings and timber. While I harvest a few acres every 5 years or so, the net return has steadily decreased. For example, the past year I thinned about 50 acres of small trees which went to the mill as chip and saw, not sawlogs. In the end, I received \$1400 while my logger received about \$70,000. The logger's cost was paid by my trees at the mill. I also paid \$3000 for gravel road repair. For me to earn Real Money I will have to wait another 25-30 years to harvest sawlogs and who knows what logger charges will be then or whether there will be a mill in my area to take my logs.

My earnings of \$1400 will just pay for my Severance tax and Harvest tax. How do I receive remuneration for years replanting and spraying out invasives? It seems that HB 3489 supposes I get intrinsic satisfaction for all my hard work!

My land has been certified by Oregon Tree Farm System which is internationally recognized. To re-certify by Forest Stewardship Council (fee based) will cost me more money but my logs will not be worth more at the mill.

Second, NO to defunding of OFRI, subversively hidden in this bill. This agency was established by the legislature in 1991 to keep the citizens of Oregon informed about forest practices and to dispel disinformation. I also receive land-owner focused informative communication from OFRI. As new citizens relocate to Oregon and youth become voters, who else will give them accurate, unbiased information. We don't have a trade organization, but OFRI is the closest we have.

Instead of supporting OFRI, my tax money would then go to 4 unrelated funds plus the general fund of my county. I have to pay, but would have no input or control over how the money is spent. Not sure if I would benefit from any of those funds or from the county!

I call that \$\$\$ into several bureaucratic black holes!

Oregon needs to support forestry if it wants to keep our hills green!

Nancy Hathaway

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