

Submitter:

Richard Spring

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3489

No new timber tax and elimination of OFRI. This bill is a slap in the face to small woodland owners. Many small forest landowners with the new forest practice rules just had a portion of their land and timber taken from them without compensation and this bill just adds to the misery they currently face. The Oregon forest sector already directly pays more for wildfire than in any other state and pays more than 1.5 times more in taxes than other similar business sectors in the state. Small forest landowners provide the public free of charge from their tree farms clean air, fresh water, habitat and forage for state owned animals, nutrients for fish in streams on their timberland and often recreation opportunities. These owners do not need the burden of another tax and most are not members of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), but are Oregon Tree Farm members so are not eligible for any discount.