

Submitter:

Nicholas Winner

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3489

The cost of wildfire is rising due to an increase of fire activity in the wildland urban interface. This bill would make it impossible to harvest timber sustainably in Oregon and when that happens we will import it from lesser regulated more tropical area that will have an increased destruction on the bio diversity of the world in a term called bio diversity leak. I work for a private timber company, and we regularly fight wildfires and pay into fire suppression efforts and agencies. This bill would take the money from hard working Oregonians and use it to subsidize the wealthiest Oregonians who want to live in the wild land urban interface by forcing others to pay for their lack of work in protecting their property. The rising cost of wildfires should be paid for by the people who are using the most of that money, and that is private landowners who live in the wild land urban interface, and not timber companies who work to keep their lands managed to reduce wildfires. The Oregon department of forestry should not be under the direction of the state fire marshal as they are completely different careers. I am a forester who fights wildland fire for work, but also a volunteer structure firefighter for my town. The mindset of fighting a wildfire is completely different than a structure fire. ODF personnel understand the way the ecosystem works with fire not just as a firefighting agency which is something that would be lost by shifting control over to the state fire marshal. This bill is harmful to Oregonians who rely on the timber industry for work as well as harmful to the biodiversity of the world. As an Oregonian, a forester, a birder, a firefighter I oppose this bill.