

Submitter:

Teresa Mueller

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3489

Dear House Committee on Revenue, It makes sense that forest management does not make our state run into the red zone. As fire season approaches, I think about what it is going to take to fight those fires and protect homes and ecosystems at risk. With no severance tax, we no longer have a healthy pool of money to manage our forests properly. We need to get that tax back, and it is not unfair because big timber companies are paying less than we the people to protect those forests, and yet their profits are huge. I like that HB 3489 includes incentives for growing trees longer. Climate change is roaring down on us, and yet we know the truths about trees and carbon sequestration! We can manage forests better. Revenue from the reinstated tax will go to the state fire marshal, the department of forest for prevention, mitigation and suppression, and to counties with timberlands. Those counties are hurting, and need this revenue.

I'm all for HB 3489, as an Oregonian, a wildlife enthusiast and someone who wants our forests protected, not destroyed.