

Submitter: Rachel Freed

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3489

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 3489, which proposes to impose a severance tax on owners of timber harvested from public or private forestland.

While I recognize the importance of generating revenue for public services and infrastructure, I believe that this tax could have detrimental economic and environmental impacts. Such a tax may increase operational costs for timber owners, potentially leading to reduced timber harvesting, job losses, and diminished economic activity within the forestry sector.

Additionally, a severance tax could discourage responsible forest management practices and sustainable forestry, as owners may seek to minimize harvests or relocate operations to regions with more favorable tax policies. This could ultimately harm local economies, rural communities, and the health of our forests.

Rather than imposing new taxes that could stifle economic growth and sustainable land management, I encourage policymakers to explore alternative revenue sources or incentives that support both economic stability and environmental stewardship.

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully oppose HB 3489 and urge you to reconsider this legislation.