

Submitter:

Margaret Bowman

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3489

Dear Committee Members,

I write to ask that you support HB 3849. As you well know, Oregon is experiencing more frequent, intense and damaging forest fires. The Legislature had to convene a special session last year to find ways to cover the costs of record-breaking summer wildfires. And now, due to the uncertainty of federal funding and protections, the outlook for funding wildfire prevention and suppression in Oregon is dire.

HB 3489, with its new amendment, will deliver much needed outcomes:

? Make big timber companies pay their fair share for forest protection. Currently, the largest timber companies in Oregon are paying a fraction of the cost to protect their private land from wildfires, despite making hundreds of millions in profit. Oregonians and small woodland owners are picking up the majority of the tab.

? Ensure future funding for wildfire suppression. Oregon is experiencing more frequent

and devastating wildfires that are costing taxpayers millions. In 2024 alone, fighting wildfires in Oregon cost approximately \$350 million.

? Fund state programs that help prevent wildfires. One third of the revenue from the policy will go towards the Oregon State Fire Marshal for community wildfire prevention and resilience.

? Support increased revenue for Oregon's timber counties. One third of the revenue will be reserved for unrestricted use for counties where timber is harvested.

Thank you for your leadership,

Margaret (Meg) Bowman