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| Submitter: | Diana Larson |
| On Behalf Of: | The future of Douglas County |
| Committee: | House Committee On Revenue |
| Measure, Appointment or Topic: | HB3489 |

The Douglas county commissioners, along with everyone else, should be lobbying for real change instead of selling our assets like they are preparing for bankruptcy. They are in Tom Kress's own words, describing Douglas County as a beggar county and selling the assets as if preparing for bankruptcy. Closing our libraries and services for the citizens and visitors of Douglas county.

The answer is in the forests in the form of reinstituting the severance tax on all Forest landowners not just the ones that own 5,000 acres or less! We can no longer afford to have commissioners that only represent one industry. It seems there is a tremendous conflict of interest being allowed to continue. Why are they letting this downward spiral continue unabated.

Tom Kress own words from his budget speech:

"Gave back 85 miles of county roads. In the 90s d.c. Took them over from state.

Made sense because log trucks were pounding those roads now we are not getting paid to maintain them so we are giving them back to the state. Take care of the other 1100 miles of county roads. Some of the departments have no way of generating revenue but we are State mandated to provide those departments, assessors, dog control, planning. We can't charge enough to pay for those and we don't want to. IF WE DON'T FIX TIMBER REVENUE DEFICIT, WHICH WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO DO FOR YEARS, we're going to have to change the face of county government. We only get 300,000 from the state to run the assessor's office but we need additional 1.5 million.

2.4 million for prosecutors. WE CAN'T KEEP PUTTING THOSE BURDENS ON THE COUNTY. SOMETHING'S GOT TO GIVE. (That should be the timber industry.

Reinstate the severance tax that was removed from anybody that owned over 5,000 acres of timberland back in 1999.)

23.1 million reduction in the general fund.CURRENT TIMBER RECEIPTS ARE NEXT TO NOTHING AT 300,000. What currently comes in doesn't even pay for our public safety. Coos and Curry counties are already in that boat. Douglas county is down to approximately 500 full-time employees from 1200. And paid for well with timber receiptsWe used to pay for things. We built Bridges, we built beautiful fairgrounds we built dams. Now we are begging for crumbs we've become a begger county."

The answer is still out there in the forests in the form of reinstituting the severance tax on people and entities that own 5,000 acres or more.

Our libraries our parks, all the things that are for the people of Douglas county, why must they go while the timber industry automates the jobs. Timber jobs are no longer the economic backbone of rural Oregon. 90% of the timber jobs of the '80s and 90s, have been automated. Back in those days when you give 3,000 people a raise, it made a difference in the community. Today that number of jobs, has been reduced

by 90% and barely makes a ripple.

The severance tax also served to reduce wasteful logging. The timber industries favorite tool, the feller buncher, takes down entire forests in a day using a handful of men, and leaves a significant amount of waste in its wake. With absolutely no repercussions for the devastation that it does.

The severance tax is not a punishment, it is fairness. The timber industry commands everyone's attention, inundating the airways with industry propaganda through OFRI and other programs, while no longer providing even a fraction of the jobs that use to be the economic stability of rural Oregon.