

Submitter:

Twila Jacobsen

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3489

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters,

My name is Twila Jacobsen and I help manage a small forest of 250 acres in southern Douglas County. This land has been managed using ecological forestry guidance creating habitat, older forests sequestering more carbon and overall a healthier ecosystem. This land is surrounded by recently clearcut forests owned by REIT's and private corporations which causes greater risk to our forest in regard to windthrow, sunburn and fast spread of potential fire, to name a few of the negative impacts. It has been shown that fires are hotter and more destructive on monoculture tree farms and shrub land after clearcut harvests. I urge you to support HB 3489, which will reinstate the timber severance tax in Oregon and support wildfire protection and prevention.

Oregon is experiencing more frequent and devastating wildfires that are costing taxpayers

millions. In 2024 alone, fighting wildfires in Oregon cost approximately \$350 million.

By supporting HB 3489, big timber companies will pay their fair share for forest protection,

and fund state programs that help prevent wildfires. (One third of the revenue will be reserved for unrestricted use for counties where timber is harvested.)

Millions of acres of Oregon's forestland are privately owned by Wall Street under Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), which allow those forest owners to pay little in corporate income taxes. For too long, Oregonians and small woodland forest owners have been paying a disproportionate share to protect public and private forestland. 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 and that money overwhelmingly leaves Oregon communities. Oregonians and small woodland owners are picking up the majority of the tab. Reinstating the timber severance tax is a fair solution for all Oregonians.

I urge you to support HB 3489.

Thank you.

Twila Jacobsen

Eugene, Oregon