

In 2024, wildfire suppression cost Oregon taxpayers \$350 million. It is an example of how devastating wildfires are becoming more the norm rather than the exception in the western states. With federal funding and support appearing less of a certainty with the new administration, it seems imperative that Oregon find its own funding sources to contain and suppress fires in the future. To this end, HB 3489 would reinstate the timber severance tax, which would have large timber companies pay their fair share for fire prevention and suppression. The bill does not increase taxes on smaller woodland owners or residents across the state, and it includes an incentive tax reduction for growing trees longer and thus increasing carbon sequestration/storage.

Private forest owners benefit greatly from public efforts to contain wildfires, and some of this private ownership is under Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs). These corporations and investors are benefiting financially from Oregon taxpayers. Please pass HB 3489, so that these large companies pay their fair share in maintaining Oregon's green forest lands and the benefits we all receive from them.