

Submitter: Harriet Cooke

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3489

I am writing in strong support of HB3489. This common cents bill will reinstate the timber severance tax, and does so with nuanced particulars that support small timber owners, and make large timber corporations pay their fair share for forest protection.

In this time of increasing mega fires, the bill supports funding for wildfire prevention, suppression and community resilience.

The tax will also help support timber counties and the State fire marshal.

Finally, the bill encourages longer rotations for trees, which will lead to greater quality of timber as well as greater sequestration of carbon in these times of escalating atmospheric CO₂. As you know, the rising CO₂ levels create the global warming that is drying out our forests making them that much more vulnerable to devastating fires. We need to do all we can to stop this vicious cycle.

With humans woefully unable to curb our C emissions significantly, we need to increase our sequestration capacity. PNW forests were designed by nature to do just that. We need to support them in this effort. HB 3489 will help. Please move this bill along with the urgency that our times call for.