

Submitter: Kathleen Sweet
On Behalf Of: self
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3489

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters,
I urge you to support HB 3489, which will reinstate the timber severance tax in Oregon and support wildfire protection and prevention. Oregon trees are perhaps our most valuable and treasured resource and must be handled carefully. This measure will provide incentive to large timber enterprise to perform judicious operations. 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, a real burden. 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.). Even the timber companies do not benefit if the trees are burned. Reinstating the timber severance tax is a fair solution for all Oregonians. I urge you to support HB 3489.