

Submitter: Susan Palmiter

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3489

Dear Chair Nathanson and Committee Members -

Our forests are suffering. The summer has already started in April 2025. Wildfires are definitely coming.

And it's not fair that private out of state, Wall Street investors under Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), which allow those forest owners to pay little in corporate income taxes.

These private forest owners benefit greatly from public efforts to contain wildfires. Every year, public funds help protect private assets that are worth billions of dollars.

HB 3489 asks for LARGE timber companies to pay their fair share for fire prevention and suppression. It does not increase taxes on smaller woodland owners or residents across the state.

Reinstating the timber severance tax is a fair solution for all Oregonians.

Please pass this bill out of committee. Give our forests a chance and bringing some equity in who pays for fire fighting.

Thank you for your service.

Sue Palmiter

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