

Submitter: George Hutchinson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3489

Please support HB 3489, which will reinstate the timber severance tax in Oregon and support wildfire protection and prevention.

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

Oregon is experiencing hotter and drier weather, with wildfires that are more expensive and damaging than ever before. In 2024, wildfire suppression (AKA firefighting) cost taxpayers \$350 million. 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 3489-1 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.