

Richen Tree Farms Testimony on HB 3489

My family has owned forestland property in Columbia County for 45 years, and for the 40 years before that, my father managed timber property for Crown Zellerbach. Forestlands are a treasure that spans generations. They provide critical ecological and economic services for all of Oregon. One third of Oregon's forests are privately owned, and one third of those are owned by people like us, non-industrial landowners with relatively small holdings.

HB 3489 would be devastating for us in two ways. The increased the tax burden in that bill is quite likely to make it impossible for us to continue owning the land. I think Oregon would much poorer if it lost the diversity that comes with small private landowners.

HB3489 would eliminate the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI). As small forestland owners, we depend on OFRI for education and information critical to careful management of our property. In addition they provide a wealth of information about Oregon's forests to the general public.

Please do your part in being a good steward of Oregon's forests and vote no on HB 3489.