

Submitter: Fran Cafferata
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3489
April 24, 2025
RE: House Bill 3489

Representative Nathanson and fellow members of the House Committee on Revenue:

For the record, my name is Fran Cafferata, and I live in Scappoose, Oregon. I am a consulting Certified Wildlife Biologist® and the owner of a small wildlife consulting firm. The focus of my work is to assist large and small landowners manage intentionally for wildlife. In addition, my family owns and manages forest land in Benton, Lane and Lincoln Counties. I have over 25 years of experience managing wildlife in forested ecosystems. My entire professional career focuses on working with landowners to promote healthy wildlife populations and sustainable timber harvest.

In addition, I am the Contract Wildlife Biologist for the Oregon Forest Resources Institute. I have been working as their biologist for over 15 years. I am directly involved in the Wildlife in Managed Forests Program which is part of the bigger Landowner Education Program. Specifically, the Wildlife in Managed Forests Program uses outreach and education to help forest landowners understand how to effectively manage their forests for both healthy wildlife populations and sustainable timber production – something I'm very proud to be a part of.

I am disappointed to learn that HB 3489 has been introduced! In addition to the completely unfair severance tax on already heavily taxed timber harvests, this bill would eliminate the Oregon Forests Resources Institute. By defunding the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, the legislature would be cutting off access to information the public depends on to receive unbiased, accurate information on Oregon Forests. As well as critical education, outreach and support services for small landowners, like my family, in Oregon.

HB 3489 not only changes how timber is taxed, but it also directs funds away from proven, landowner-focused programs into state-run programs with uncertain and unfair outcomes.

In closing, I encourage you to review the resources that have been produced by OFRI. They are hugely beneficial to landowners and interested Oregonians. All our resources can be found online at the OFRI website. I strongly recommend you kill

this unnecessary bill.