

Submitter: Cheryl Conway  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Revenue  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3489  
Date: April 25, 2025  
Re: Testimony in support HB 3489

Chair Nathanson and members of the House Committee on Revenue:

I encourage you to read the testimony in support of HB 3489 submitted by the Oregon League of Women Voters and by Southern Oregon Climate Action Network. The testimony clearly describes the financial results of phasing out the timber severance tax and how corporate timber has been reaping the benefits of this phase out, placing an unfair burden on taxpayers to fund needed services and to pay for the impacts of wildfire. This bill will apply a progressive tax that will reduce lost revenue from future harvest.

I live in Clatsop County, where funding for special districts and county services now relies heavily on maximizing the harvest of timber in state forests. This funding model is unsustainable and leads to overcutting just to maintain minimum budgets. The environmental impacts are also devastating. Harvesting has impacted drinking water and the salmon fishing industry in communities along the coast. It has been estimated that local governments have lost an accumulated \$3 BILLION since the 1990's. We need to increase the money available for local needs by demanding a fairer share of the profits made from our timber, not by cutting more trees in an ever-shortening cycle.

Please vote for a sustainable future by reinstating the timber severance tax with HB 3489.

Respectfully,  
Cheryl Conway  
Astoria, OR