

Submitter: Brian Barnett
On Behalf Of: Owners and stewards of small woodlands
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3489

Greetings Legislators,

I oppose HB3489 and request your NO vote on HB3489. This bill does damage to small acreage woodland owners who steward forests for a variety of uses and provide many positive effects for the environment such as watersheds, air, climate, while providing good jobs and an economic benefit to the owner.

The damage includes:

1. Eliminating the Oregon Forest Resource Institute, a resource education center I personally benefit from an helps me be a good steward of my land.
2. Increasing the severance tax. Recent, changes to forest management laws have taken acres of land out of productive use and dis-incentivizes managing those acres for beneficial habitat for fish and wildlife. Forestry revenue comes when the trees need to be thinned or harvested and increasing taxes reduces the margin for the owner and certainly will reduce acres managed, thinned, and harvested. This will cause more intense wildfires.
3. Tax breaks should be associated with good management of the forests. The American Tree Farm System is a good organization that requires rigorous management plans of woodland owners to become certified. Elevating the FSC to the sole certification system will force many woodland owners to prepare new, costly plans to a different standard meant for industrial forest land owners, and is anti-competitive.

I urge a NO vote.

Thank you for your consideration.