

Submitter: Teresa Simmoms
On Behalf Of: Teresa Simmons
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3489

To Whom it May Concern in regard to HB3489

Small Timber Land owners such as myself have a difficult time not only in adhering to all the changing rules and regulations imposed upon us but also in trying to make a small profit from the timber we grow. Remember, ours is not a yearly crop or even a decade crop but a generational crop. Over the 30 to 40 year maturation period of our timber we guard our crop against pests, disease, browsing, forest fires, ice storms, regular storms, high winds, and legislation that may at the end of the growth period make it impossible to harvest the timber. Also during that time period after the new seedlings have been planted we monitor the crop for the growth rate and thin the timber stands as needed. Finally, at the end of the growth cycle we hope for a viable timber market. Due to the loss of several of the mills, it is necessary to transport the logs sometimes long distances. The cost of harvesting, lengthy transport, cost of gas, and the market itself can either make or break any profit. Now as for the harvest tax. On top of all the expense we have incurred over the years, including the annual property tax, we pay a harvest tax and then an income tax on top of that.

When it comes to regulations, the large timber companies who have very large tracts of land, can afford to pay any fines for infractions to the regulations because their profit far outweighs the amount of the fine. For them a 100 foot buffer isn't a great concern. For a small timber grower, it may make it impossible to harvest their crop.

It appears that not only are the small farms disappearing as a result of the LCDC zoning but the small timber growers are being legislated out of existence as well. As a generational land owner whose family has held this tract of land since 1937, my family has seen a great deal of change. We have watched the use of the land we have nurtured be limited through regulation making it very difficult to maintain our holdings.

I sincerely hope that you will consider these concerns that I have presented when making your decision on this bill.