

In Opposition to HB 3489

We are small woodland owners with forest land in Lane, Lincoln, and Benton Counties. It is our pleasure, honor, and responsibility to manage our 345 acres sustainably, and although in our 80s, we do most of the tree farm work- fire protection, invasive species control, planting, thinning, road maintenance etc.- ourselves. We are opposed to HB 3489 for many reasons. Three main ones are:

- Data from the latest National Small Woodlands Survey shows a marked decline in forest ownership, with over half the land sold being converted to non-forest uses. Here is a link to a presentation of the survey. <C:\Users\caff\OneDrive\Documents\National Small Woodland Owner Survey Presentation.docx>

HB 3489 increases the cost of keeping our forest land in forests to the point that many of us will not be able to continue owning it. Keeping forest land in forest is surely in the best interest of all Oregonians. In our case, HB 3489's tax structure would make thinning our Douglas fir forest on Penn Road, Lane County, cost prohibitive, thereby decreasing forest health and increasing fire danger.

- Creating and maintaining wildlife habitat is high on our list of objectives. OFRI's guides to provide for wildlife on managed forests are invaluable, as is their manual on the Forest Practice Act and other publications. As members of the Oregon Tree Farm System's Landowner Journey Working Group, we distribute these materials to new forest landowners across the state. Again, they are extremely useful. HB 3489, in eliminating OFRI's funding, would do great disservice to so many Oregonians who are working to sustain Oregon's forest land.
- We object strenuously to singling out FSC as the only certification system to provide a tax reduction. The American Forest Foundation oversees the American Tree Farm System, which certifies forest land as meeting the International Standards of Sustainability (PEFC) and is widely used by small woodland owners in Oregon. Unlike FSC, OTFS (the Oregon branch of the American Tree Farm System) is run by volunteers at no cost to landowners. As immediate past Co-Chairs of OTFS, we have great respect for the work our volunteer professional foresters do, and for the work Oregon landowners do to promote sustainable healthy forests. Why on earth should our state government promote one certification system over another? Here is a link to the American Tree Farm System's Addendum, which landowners must present along with their management plans to OTFS inspectors during on-site inspections, which take place initially upon request, and every five years thereafter to maintain certification. As you can see, ATFS certification is both rigorous and comprehensive. [file:///C:\Users\caff\Downloads\ATFS%20Management%20Plan%20Addendum%202021%20\(1\)%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:\Users\caff\Downloads\ATFS%20Management%20Plan%20Addendum%202021%20(1)%20(1).pdf)



Again, we urge you to oppose HB 3489.

Steve & Wylda Cafferata