



Providing Opportunity to Family Forestland Owners

April 8, 2015

Testimony to House Revenue Committee Regarding HB 3481

My name is Jim James. I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA). OSWA is an association that represents the interests of Oregon's 140,000 family forest owners. OSWA has about 3000 members. As you probably know, 42% of the private forests in Oregon belong to family forest owners.

OSWA is opposed to HB 3481. It would be an unfair tax of forest owners to pay for things that do not directly benefit them or they are already adequately funding. The value of family forestland timber is often the savings account, bank account, and 401K for family forest owners. A \$20/MBF severance tax could cost family forest owners close to \$100 per load of logs and \$1000 per acre during final harvest activities and for what:

- 6% to administer the tax
- The Residential Solid Fuel Heating Fund
- The Watershed Conservation Grant Fund
- The Biomass Collectors Tax Credit Fund
- The Oregon Forestland Protection Fund, which forest landowners already fund adequately
- Potential payments to the Counties, over and above what forest landowners already pay
- A complicated possible 15% rebate that would probably create more hassle and confusion than it is worth

It is OSWA's opinion; this bill is not just and should not move out of committee. It would be a license to steal family forest owner's assets and savings. I do not understand why anyone should feel they should have access to forest landowner assets to fund the listed projects. Please do not move this bill out of committee.

Thanks,

Jim James
Executive Director
Oregon Small Woodlands Association