

House Revenue Committee

Chairman Phil Barnhart

Re: HB2859

The proposed elimination of the "Special Assessed Value" would devastate many small forest landowners by requiring them to cut all of their trees to pay the proposed property taxes. The property would all be clearcut in a short time. This would not provide long term revenue for anyone.

In figuring the proposed elimination of the "Special Assessed value" our family property taxes based on 2016 -2017 tax year our taxes were \$1,019.63. Using the "Real Market Value "as suggested the tax would be \$25,335.19

The changes to our forestland would be dramatic. **Here are just a few changes we would be forced to have TO PAY TAXES**

Our family is attached to our property. The first piece was bought in 1883 when our family came from Missouri. A lot happened on the property between then and now. The soil was not able to produce crops very well but was better suited for Trees which we consider a long term crop. Dad and others planted trees on the property in 1957 by pulling seedlings from along roads and planting them and going and getting more until they had 80 acres planted. (Dad was attached to the land at this time.) He and Mom later were able to buy the property and have it back in our immediate family.. All of the land is either planted or natural regeneration now. Dad had a plan to retire and manage the property to supplement his Social Security. **THAT WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE TO PAY TAXES**

Dad and Mom wanted us to have the family land knowing that their six children would also need to supplement their own social security. **THAT WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE TO PAY TAXES**

We currently own the property for keeping our family together, keeping the water clean and the air fresh, and our land diverse as needed by wildlife. We also use for recreation and the gathering of our friends from town. Our tree farm is currently being used for education of OSU Forestry students in a program for them to help improve our wildlife issues and make improvements to attract threatened species into our forest environment. **THAT WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE TO PAY TAXES TO PAY TAXES**

We currently have a certified tree farm which is planned for sustainable forest management by never cutting more in a year than the forest has grown since the last harvest on the property. We cut only 5-7 acre patch cuts to allow for what we believe and have learned through our continued education is the best for the wildlife including songbirds. **THAT WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE TO PAY TAXES**

We have a 60 year rotation management plan. **THAT WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE t TO PAY TAXES**

We cut some timber most years but not all of our timber. – **THAT WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE TO PAY TAXES**

I have taken classes from Oregon State University to become a Small Woodland Manager and help others to manage their property with Management plans in consideration of their goals and objectives. That would have to **change for they would have to harvest their timber TO PAY TAXES.**

I have worked on our family properties as well as my siblings, our kids and our grandkids. So it would be a huge loss for our family and our **values** if these forests had to be **CUT TO PAY TAXES.**

How could we explain this cutting of ALL our trees to our children and grandchildren? By telling them we had **TO PAY TAXES**

This surely is not how I have learned to protect our environment, wildlife and really not what my parents intended to provide as a legacy for THEIR FAMILY.

Please feel free to contact me for any questions or concerns about this matter of HB2859

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