

House Revenue Committee

Chairman Phil Barnhart

Re: HB2859

Dear Chair Barnhart;

My wife and I live on 96 acres of forestland outside of Rogue River. We purchased the property in 2003 when we moved to Oregon. We had a house built on the property and moved on-site in 2005.

The property had been high graded about 30 years before we bought it. It was severely over stocked, unhealthy and a real fire hazard. I'm convinced that it had previously been a poison oak preserve. .

We have spent thousands of dollars over the last twelve years thinning and removing slash to improve the health of the forest and the fire safety of the property.

Our property is a great place to live. But we also felt that we would be able to draw some supplemental income during our retirement from timber harvests. HB 2859 would mean that most, if not all, of our profits from the selective harvesting we plan to do would go to pay the increased property taxes caused by the sun setting of the forest use special assessment.

Oregon is a special place which is why my wife and I decided to retire here. Two major contributors to Oregon's special quality are the private forest and farm lands found throughout the state.

Several years ago the legislature realized the value of these lands to the quality of life in Oregon. In their wisdom, they established the farm and forest use special assessments to enable families to keep these lands in production.

I hope that this legislature will have the wisdom to kill HB2859.

Thank you.

Dennis Morgan  
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