

Sarah Deumling  
Zena Forest LLC  
4550 Oak Grove Rd.  
Rickreall, OR 97371

House Revenue Committee  
Chairman Cliff Barnhart  
Re: HB 2859

As a long time family forestland owner in Polk County I am writing with great concern about HB 2859. I have no problem with reviewing any and all tax codes and laws periodically but absolutely do not see the need to sunset any of them during a review or to even propose sunseting them in the future without knowing the result of the review. This seems to me like pre-judging an important process.

We at the Zena Forest are on the front edge of the practice of sustainable commercial forestry. (Look us up - [www.zenaforest.com](http://www.zenaforest.com)) We are very conscious of the important role forested landscapes play in our Oregon landscape supplying timber resources, creating jobs and also the even more important community values of clean air, abundant fresh water, soil protection and biodiversity to say nothing of recreation and lifestyle amenities.

Our forestry tax deferrals make it possible for us to practice forestry. For many years we have no income on a section of property where trees are growing, absorbing carbon, protecting water, providing hunting and other recreational opportunities - with no remuneration - and currently, therefore, have a large portion of our property taxes on this land deferred. When, after fifty or seventy or 100 years we harvest large, valuable trees we pay a variety of harvest and severance taxes in lieu of those deferred taxes. Margins are small, especially for those of us who practice a more costly but more environmentally careful version of forestry. Our contribution to society goes well beyond the actual timber harvest value. I have trouble imagining a rationale for pushing us farther toward the brink by raising our property tax rates with HB 2859. Our land use laws, which I personally support, have zoned our land be protected for the practices of agriculture and forestry and to my understanding part of this bargain was/is the deferral of a portion of our property taxes until harvest.

All of us out there getting our hands dirty every day are stewarding the rural lands of Oregon for our grandchildren and future generations of Oregonians - ensuring a large sector of Oregon's economy, jobs, food, water, clean air, renewable building materials, export income and much more. Sunsetting deferrals on natural resource land will make it much less likely - in many cases impossible - that a next generation will be able to take over management of these lands. The alternatives are not good.

Feel free to review these tax deferrals if you feel that is a wise way to spend your time and state money, include us landowners in those discussions, and please don't make the mistake of sunseting something before you have a good reason to.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Deumling