

From: [Garrett Bennett](#)
To: [Exhibits HNR](#)
Subject: Support for HB 2659
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 1:40:09 PM

To whom it may concern,

The bill would not affect small landowners. The bill rescinds tax breaks for large industrial landowners of over 5000 acres - it will NOT negatively impact small operations.

Thanks to decades of powerful lobbying by the timber industry, Oregon's tax codes for private timberland have largely been gutted. Now all that's left for the state in tax revenue is about \$1.83 per acre, and the rest of us are left to make up the difference.

In return for subsidizing the timber industry, Oregonians shoulder the cost of the environmental damages that harmful logging practices produce. These damages include: increased fire risk, depleted water supplies, increased risk of water pollution and toxic algae blooms, extinction of wildlife and fish, costly landslides, and increased flooding.

Our education system and social services would see huge benefits if the timber industry paid into our counties at a fair rate. Counties could receive over \$200 million per year in funds for schools, infrastructure, and social services. Over \$100 million per year could be freed up to invest in climate smart practices that employ far more workers than conventional practices.

Forest landowners who employ sustainable practices should be compensated for leaving healthy, climate-resilient forests behind. Owners of land that is producing timber, leaving behind clean water, supporting wildlife & fish, and sequestering & storing carbon, you not only keep the tax breaks, but qualify for incentives to keep doing what you're doing.

The big corporations opposed to this bill are making record profits and can afford to pay more than \$1.83 per acre in taxes on their land. This bill helps redirect huge corporate profits back into Oregon's communities where it belongs.

Best Regards,

Earth