

From: [kris alman](#)
To: [Exhibits HNR](#)
Subject: Correction from Kris Alman: Support HB 2659
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 1:51:00 PM

Chair Witt and members of the House Committee on Natural Resources,
Please support HB 2659.

This bill would repeal special assessments and property tax exemptions for large industrial landowners of forestlands covered by timber plantations and nonforested land (forestland that is covered by recent clear-cuts, logging roads, infrastructure or other openings).

Having worked with Tax Fairness Oregon, I am always thrilled to see a bad tax expenditure go to good use. This legislation could pump over \$200 million per year to counties to pay for teachers and other vital social services. An additional \$100 million per year would be invested in climate smart practices. These practices would create new green jobs. And this legislation won't affect small operations of less than 5000 acres.

With the weakest logging rules in the region, Oregonians have a lot to gain with the passage of HB 2659. Oregon Wild^[1] believes that "carbon-intensive logging practices make the timber industry Oregon's largest source of global warming emissions." They say, "The single biggest step Oregon can take to combat climate change is to modernize our forest management laws."

But having lobbied with Common Cause to remove money in politics, I am deeply concerned that timber money will influence this vote the wrong way. Prove me wrong!

Have a work session on this bill and move it forward to become enacted law.

Respectfully,
Kris Alman MD

^[1] Forest Defense is Climate Defense, Connecting Forest, Carbon and Climate Change.
<https://oregonwild.org/sites/default/files/oregon-wild-forest-climate-report-2018-web.pdf>