

From: [Jan Zuckerman](#)
To: [Exhibits HNR](#)
Subject: Oregon Forest Carbon Incentive Act
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I am a retired teacher and youth mentor, who has spent over 20 years in the field with students studying forest ecology. During this time I have watched our forests get gutted at surprising rates from relaxed private timber regulations. Harmful logging practices in this state have destroyed vital habitat for fish and wildlife and have put our state in jeopardy when it comes to climate resiliency.

It was no surprise to read about the campaign finance catastrophe in Oregon and how industrial timber companies have made off like bandits. The tax codes for private timber industry is pittance compared to the high cost of damage to our ecosystem. Why should we, Oregonians, pay the price of harmful logging practices? It is high time for the timber industry to take responsibility for increased fire risk, depleted water supplies, toxic algae blooms, extinction of fish and wildlife, landslides and flooding. How can we take pride in our state's natural beauty when we know that we are not protecting it? It is shameful.

With years of study and experience in the field, it is shocking and dishonest when the timber industry defends their harmful practices by stating that they reduce fire and that Douglas Fir trees do better with clear cutting. Any forester knows about microclimates and the importance of sustainable forestry practices for the health of the forest, soil and entire ecosystem. Private forest lands, once owned by locals who knew their neighbors, are now owned by corporations that have no connection or responsibility to their neighbors downstream nor any interest in the common good of Oregonians. We should NOT be subsidizing the destruction of our coveted forest ecosystem. Private industry has a responsibility to preserve and protect our forest lands, just like I have a responsibility to pay my share of taxes and practice sustainable living so that the hundreds of children I have taught, including my own, have a livable future.

This bill is not about forest landowners who employ sustainable practices. In fact, they should be rewarded. This bill is about insuring that industrial timber landowners of over 5000 acres pay their fair share of taxes and not be rewarded with tax breaks for harming our water, land, and air.

As a teacher and public servant for over 30 years, there hasn't been one year that our schools have been able to pay for the services that our children deserve. If we stopped subsidizing the timber industry, and prioritized education and social services, like we have been doing for the polluters, then I could look my students in the face and feel proud to be an Oregonian. Please redirect these huge corporate profits back into the communities where it belongs.

Support the Oregon Forest Incentive Act.

Thank you,

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