

Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing to you to voice my opposition to SB 1516 as amended. I am a forestry land owner and I oppose SB 1516 as amended. I do not think it is fair to assess me an additional \$10.80 when I and my fellow forestry land owners currently provide 68% of the funding for the Emergency Fire Fund. Any additional assessments for the Emergency Fire Fund need to be levied on a broader base than just forestry land owners.

I do not feel it is necessary to also make up to 35 part time fire season employees full time. Is this really necessary at this time from a fiscal standpoint and what would these employees be doing when not fighting fires?

My understanding is that SB 1536 proposes an in-depth study be completed to evaluate Oregon's fire cost system. Any changes like those proposed in SB 1516 should wait until this study is completed.

Please do NOT approve SB 1516 as amended!!

Thank-You

Signed,

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