



Clatsop County
Courtney Bangs
District 4 Commissioner

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing today in opposition to HB 2389 which makes the Forest Products Harvest Tax rate permanent and fixes it to inflation. Forestland is currently taxed at its real market value: as land primarily used to grow and harvest timber, just like agriculture/farm land is taxed as its use for growing crops, and residential and commercial property is taxed accordingly. Again, now is not the time in our recovering economy to implement new taxes that could potentially damage an already vulnerable business and economy.

We have suffered such a great loss during our summer fire season, fixing the harvest tax to inflation removes the ability for small landowners to recoup financial losses during a good market. Timber jobs and businesses are the economic backbone of rural Oregon – the industry provides over 60,000 family wage jobs in our state. In 2020, these communities endured massive layoffs and the worst wildfires in Oregon history. A new tax on timber and attaching it to inflation will eliminate jobs and businesses in rural communities that are already suffering multiple extreme hardships between covid and the extreme wildfire season we endured.

Currently, 64% of Oregonians oppose new taxes and regulations on businesses struggling to recover from the economic devastation of the pandemic. Private forests were hit hard: nearly 40% of the acres burned in the Labor Day fires were on private lands. I implore you to oppose HB2389. Now, during economic recovery, is not the time for new taxes or changes to taxing systems.

Sincerely,
Courtney Bangs
Clatsop County Commissioner Dist #4
FTLAC Board Member