



March 2, 2021

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners  
Policy Position  
Related to Harvest and Severance Taxes**

**Clackamas County opposes harvest and severance taxes proposed in the 2021 legislative session.** These bills include but are not limited to HB 2070, HB 2357, HB 2379, HB 2389, HB 2430, and HB 2598.

The proposed legislation may be well-intentioned, but the bills are poorly timed given the economic impacts to Oregonians caused by COVID-19 and the 2020 wildfires. Additionally, some proposed legislation seeks to allocate revenues that historically went directly to counties to instead fund programs that, while perhaps meaningful, could further remove the benefit of imposed taxes from the communities where taxes would be collected.

Fifty four percent of the land in Clackamas County is managed by the federal government, and nearly 20% more includes timber lands managed by private firms. Forests are one of the county's primary assets, and therefore Clackamas County should be at the table when management or tax policies are designed and proposed that affect our forests.

Clackamas County feels strongly that these proposals would benefit from a robust discussion with counties, and respectfully recommends that a task force be created, which includes counties, with a goal of returning to the 2023 legislative session with modified proposals – or none at all, if that is the will of the task force.

We urge a “NO” vote on legislation that imposes harvest or severance taxes for timber.

Please contact Chris Lyons at [clyons@clackamas.us](mailto:clyons@clackamas.us) for more information.