

I oppose HB 2379. As a small timberland owner in Lincoln County. HB 2370 proposes a 5% tax on value of timber harvested, but it does not state if it is net after harvest (stumpage value) or gross value of logs delivered to mill (Pond value) The difference can be as much as \$300 per thousand board feet (the cost of harvest and trucking to mill) Current log prices for my timber is about \$600 per thousand board feet. That is a huge difference.

The wind event of Sept 7th caused 10 acres of trees to blow down on my timberland. It will cost me 25% more to salvage the downed trees virus if they were standing. Now the timing of the harvest has been dictated to me with a higher harvest cost and HB2379 wants to tax me 5% of the value.

HB 2379 is asking for private landowners to pay for fighting fire on public land. Most wildland fires originate on Public land, why should Private owners bare the cost of fires on public lands

There seems to be some misconception about OFRI using tax dollars. When the forest industry founded OFRI as its commodity commission they self-imposed an assessment through the legislation process to fund the commission. The industry did not take existing tax dollars to fund OFRI.

Please do not pass HB 2379 out of committee