

Benton Forest Coalition represents over 200 members in and around Corvallis, and has members in Portland, Salem, Eugene, Springfield, Cottage Grove, and Roseburg. We wholeheartedly support the passage of HB 2379.

The future of Oregon's economy is dependent on the beauty of our scenic forests. Allowing multinational corporations and investors to mar every scenic vista in Oregon without compensation for our citizenry is an outrage. County police, schools, first responders, and health care providers are being shortchanged by timber corporations that muddy our streams, spray known carcinogens across our landscapes, and destroy precious wildlife habitat without paying a fair share of their immense profits into local tax bases.

Neighboring states have more equitable severance and harvest taxes without crippling healthy forest based industries. It's time for the state of Oregon to catch up, and restore severance taxes to a reasonable level, taxes that were eliminated in the 90's as a result of heavy timber industry lobbying, by corporations that also busted labor unions guaranteeing timber workers a fair wage.

Thank You

Reed Wilson

Benton Forest Coalition