

Dear Chair Witt, Co-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Hudson, and members of the committee,

I am writing in opposition of HB2379. As I stated in another testimony, adding taxes to Oregonians at a time of already unprecedented hardship due to Covid, wildfires, and the recent ice storm, would be more than some could bear. Rural Oregon just can't handle much more.

Reinstating a severance tax would encourage a conversion of forestland to other uses (residential, industrial, agricultural) that do not provide environmental benefits like carbon capture and storage, wildlife habitat, clean water, and recreation.

Please let Oregon recuperate from this horrible last year before considering new taxes.

Thank you for your consideration,
Belinda A. Coalman