

February 24, 2021

Chair Witt, Vice-Chair(s) Breese-Iverson and Hudson, Members of the Committee, for the record my name is Nicole Wood. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

I am writing to express my and my family's opposition to HB 2379, HB 2389, HB 2430, and HB 2598.

I would like to share a little about myself and my family. I am a native Oregonian, a registered nurse by profession, and a small woodland owner and I come from a long line of forest owners. My husband, a veterinarian, and I own and live on just under 20 acres of forested property.

My father, LeLand Payne is a conscientious steward of his land, as evidenced by the distinguished honor of Tree Farmer of the Year Yamhill County 2020. He has lived on his 111 acres 84 years and is the third generation of ownership of this property. I will be the fourth and my daughters the fifth generation to live and sustain this forested acreage we call home.

At 24 years of age, my father inherited part and purchase part of his family's land that he lives on. At that time, the trees on his property were just around 10 years old. He is now 84 years of age and last year he harvested a small section of his forest. That is a 60 year LONG wait for a paycheck. While he waited for this paycheck that would amount to less than \$1700 per year, he manually worked this land. He did not receive a salary for the roads built, the limbs pruned, the fill-planting, the thinning, the clean-up from storms, or the surveillance of the eco system in his diverse forest. The only financial reimbursement he would receive would be 60 years later, and that was only if a natural disaster had not taken out his crop.

I want to refer to another written testimony by David and Mary Ann Bugni. In their testimony, they described logging-related costs of their thinning. Please take a moment to review their example. My father's harvest was remarkably similar in costs and revenue to their logging harvest. He had to harvest out of necessity. There were three culverts along his fish bearing streams that needed replacing because of rusting through. Due to law changes with science and education for culvert sizing, the culverts were going to be significantly larger than the original culverts. Should it not have been for cost sharing with Weyerhaeuser, my dad would have had to pay more than 50% of the income from his six acres harvest to do the right thing and replace these culverts to updated standards. There is no funding offered to help a good forest steward to cover these costs imposed by the government, it all comes out of the small woodland owner's finances. Now the legislature wants to impose more taxes on us small woodland owners. It is greedy on the government's side and seems unreasonable to maintain a sustainable forest on the small woodland owner's side.

Please see the bigger picture for us small woodland owners. There are already so many imposed laws and regulations that a small woodland owner needs to comply with that cost's finances, sometimes more money than the small woodland owner has. **With a severance tax at 5%, this is over 6 times more than what we pay for harvest tax.**

This brings me to another written testimony by Douglas County Board of Commissioners. Their testimony is very well composed, and I do hope it provides you a strong understanding of the risk you are putting Oregon in should these bills be passed.

I will quote one of their paragraphs. "Reinstating a severance tax encourages 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. Severance taxes are for "severed resources" like coal and crude oil, not a crop that is planted and cultivated over time. State law requires harvested timber be replanted, on an average, four trees are planted for every one tree that is harvested. For tax purposes, forest landowners are treated like all other landowners in Oregon. Forestland is taxed at its real market value: as land primarily used to grow and harvest timber, just like agriculture land is taxed as its use for growing crops and residential and commercial property is taxed accordingly. When trees are harvested, processed, and sold, income is generated and taxed. Up-front costs (planting, thinning, pest and fire prevention) are not recouped for 40 years or more, provided trees are not' destroyed by mother nature before then."

In closing, please understand as small forest owners, our financial burden is already great, and we are reeling from the fires that swept across our state last fall, torching a million acres, and from the severe ice storm that struck northwest Oregon on Valentine's weekend, let alone the pandemic we are in. This is not the time to add additional burdens. If you genuinely want to preserve Oregon's forests, you will find ways to make forest management more desirable, not less.

I, my father LeLand Payne, my husband Stan Wood, my daughter Erica Wood, and my sister Camille Miller all implore you to vote NO on these bills.

Thank you for reading my testimony.

Sincerely,

Nicole Wood



February 24, 2021

Signature page for Nicole Wood's written testimony.

I agree with the written testimony of Nicole Wood. I oppose HB 2379, HB 2389, HB 2430, and HB 2598.

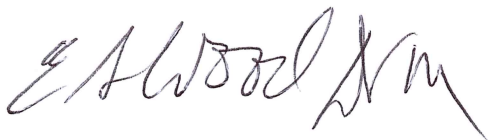
We appreciate you reading our testimony, written by Nicole and taking our information into consideration.

Sincerely,

LeLand Payne



Stan Wood



Erica Wood



Camille Miller

