

Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Charles Volz and I am a member of Lane County Small Woodlands. I purchased 65 acres of timberland in Lane County in 1992. Approximately 1/3 of the land was poorly stocked and overgrown with brush. I cleared the brushy acres, piled and burned the brush and planted more than 10,000 trees. Twenty-nine years later, I have suffered timber losses from wind storms, drought, ice and snow storms.

I was very fortunate when the Holiday Inn fire made a hard right turn just before reaching my tree farm. Many of my fellow timberland owners were not so lucky and suffered catastrophic losses.

Return on investment on timberland is likely a whole lot less than one might think it is. This is an extremely poor time to be considering an increase in timber tax. Thank you for the time and opportunity to present this testimony.