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The Oregon Small Business Association opposes HB 2379, HB 2598, HB 2389

Legislators should be throwing these businesses and their communities a lifeline instead of piling on new taxes.

On top of it all, Oregon's rural communities hard hit by wildfires are struggling to rebuild and are facing a long road ahead. They need jobs, they need homes, they need stability.

House bills 2379, 2598, and 2389 will negatively affect the companies who employ many of the people most impacted by the wildfires and lead to negative impacts for the construction industry, driving up costs to rebuild their communities.

Much has been said about Oregon's affordable housing shortage and what to do about it. Lawmakers should be wary of the impact of these bills on all Oregonians – urban, rural and suburban.

Because of the pandemic, lumber production has not kept pace with demand. CNBC reported just this month that, *"The trouble was that the pandemic also made it harder to produce. Some mills have had to limit shift work in order to comply with social distancing rules."* (2/10/21)

According to The National Association of Homebuilders, *"This increase will add thousands of dollars to the cost of a typical newly-built home, thereby constraining housing supply, exacerbating affordability woes, and limiting housing's economic impact."*

These proposed taxes are the wrong idea at the wrong time. Oregon legislators that are serious about helping Oregon companies recover, create jobs, and help stabilize their communities, should resoundingly reject these bills.