

Chair Witt and Members of the Committee,

My name is Marjorie Stuart and I live in Benton County, Oregon.

Please support HB 2379. The timber industry has had enough of a free ride and needs to start paying its fare share of taxes to Oregon lands and communities. As this is a substantial amount of money, in the millions of dollars, it is time to help out Oregon instead of--as the timber industry has been rapaciously doing-- denuding it, taking away critical wildlife habitat, removing Oregonian beauty and recreational opportunities, and increasing serious erosion. Instead the tax income could be used to help out the above-mentioned issues and aid in paying for the exponentially increasing cost of wildfire management.

Timber is not a crop, as the timber industry continuously calls it to their advantage to get out of paying their fare share of taxes. The cycle of timber land is anywhere from approximately 20 years to upwards of 80 years, not the 1 year that an agricultural crop such as beans or corn takes.

Please support HB 2379.

Respectfully,
Marjorie Stuart