

This bill is about fair taxation. Period. I do not have paid lobbyists backed up by law firms to get me out of paying taxes. I am a property taxpayer in Lane and Curry counties. Our Lane county property is zoned F2, but like many in the Coast Range foothills we farm open land and have 25-30 acres of forest. Our farm is bordered by Seneca industrial forest. They are not the friends of small landowners. If they do not pay their fair share, we all end up paying.

If Seneca does not pay its share our county revenue suffers. Every few years our Crow, Lorraine, Applegate school district has to ask taxpayers for special levys (extra money). We have clearcuts around us throughout the area. Where are the profits going? The county needs more for all kinds of other social services. We are also periodically asked to vote extra funds for the sheriff's department, which is chronically short of officers.

As I said we also farm. Our crops include tree fruits, grapes and berries. I have never heard our forest called a crop. Has the definition changed? I looked it up.

Dictionary.com CROP

noun

the cultivated produce of the ground, while growing or when gathered: *the wheat crop.*

the yield of such produce for a particular season.

a cultivated plant that is grown as food, especially a grain, fruit, or vegetable.

"the main crops were oats and barley"

We also have property in Port Orford, Curry county. Perhaps David Brock Smith can further explain what happened a few years ago when the town water supply was polluted by a logging operation up Hubbard Creek. The town was put under supervision by the DEQ and OHA for years, until we could upgrade our water plant and then purchase and rehab the watershed. Our property taxes skyrocketed. The timber owner profited.

Why not allocate all timber tax revenue to counties? Twenty-five per cent (25%) seems rather puny. If the county needs to fund for wild fire issues, they could do so in conjunction with state requirements. I'm still waiting to see fiscal and revenue impact statements. I expect you all to vote to benefit your counties; not any campaign funders.