

To : Members of the House Committee

There comes A point in time when businesses can no longer afford to do business in Oregon. The time is nearing. We have been taxed more and more and we thought the recent CAT tax had to be the last. But now timber owners risk another assessment under the potential of HB2379. It is as though the authors of upcoming bills have never been in business for themselves. There needs to be incentive to be in business with all the hidden restrictions and hidden costs.

Severance taxes are intended for resources like coal and gas that are sold out of state.

It is extremely concerning that this committee would be considering another reason to stop timber harvesting. Forestland should remain forestland. And it can if managers are allowed to grow, harvest, and replant and make A profit for future expenses and capital outlay. It is extremely expensive to harvest trees, ship to the mills , prepare the land, buy seedlings and replant , pay crews, find employees that want to work, tend to the trees, and protect them for fire, It's A very expensive proposition. But worth the reward for future generations and to help sustain A healthy forest which sequesters carbon, provides wildlife habitat and contributes to clean water.

This incentive to keep private property in timberland would be diminished by another tax. We need forestland.

We don't want to de-incentivize the growing of trees. Do we want timber owners to find other uses for their timberland? I think not. Do NOT vote for this to proceed. Thank you for allowing me to present testimony today. Kay King