

I'd also would like to speak to the testimony on February 23rd by Chris Edwards of the OFRI. He accused those of us who advocate for the Timber Tax Fairness as demonizing logging. I am a forest property owner who selectively logs AND an advocate. I was unimpressed with Mr. Edwards' misguided finger pointing. My position is to try to solve a problem in which I have ownership. Mr. Edwards also implied that he represents all forest owners in the State of Oregon. He referred to it as timber land, showing his bias that the purpose of forest land was extraction. Many forest land owners as well as the general public believe that forests are equally or more valuable for water supply, wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, solitude, and other purposes. Most surprisingly, Mr. Edwards said that logging in Oregon was carbon neutral. Many sources, including the State of Oregon itself have determined that logging is the number one contributor to carbon emissions in Oregon. The State of Oregon offers a carbon sequestration program to small forest owner - not to log, but to improve the forest and contain carbon. Logging disturbs the soil which then emits carbon into the atmosphere. Cut trees loose carbon storage. Logging trucks, cats, helicopters, pickups and mills emit carbon. There are more emissions to deliver lumber to retailers. And slash burning, which could be done to make biochar and return the carbon to the earth is instead done in burn piles adding more emissions to the atmosphere. We need to base our decisions on real information. Severance tax for corporation owned timber harvest needs to be implemented. They take our resources like watersheds, and add no money to compensate.