

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources – HB 2070 – HB 2379 – HB 2389 – HB 2430

I oppose HB 2070, 2379, 2389, 2430 as this is not the time to create new or additional tax for industrial logging on land designated forest land and/or small private forest woodlands properties.

I Specifically Oppose:

1. HB 2070 and HB 2430 as an opened ended, fill-in blank percentage to raise timber tax revenue by a 2/3 majority vote of the legislative assembly and give Legislative Assembly the Carte' Blanche in raising timber taxes.
2. HB 2379 severance tax on the sale of timber in addition to the tax already collected "timber tax" to pay for Emergency Wildfire Fund expenses is not the responsibility of timber industry. ODF and the State Fire Marshall are the managers/funding entities in this state for Wildfire, Legislative Assembly goal should be to approve funds to these departments for Wildfire. ODF and the State Fire Marshall have the sole responsibility to request the governor for a state of emergency declaration and funding and/or appeal to the Governor for President for a federal emergency declaration. For the Legislative Assembly to put this funding upon the timber industry is outrageous overstep of taxation. Wildfire funding is general obligation of Oregon to support. Legislators quit trying to squeeze revenue from owners of timber or any other industry for a state mandated Emergency Fund(s) legislation.
3. HB 2389 in particular:
(7) The rates of taxes levied under subsections (1) to (4) of this section shall be adjusted annually for inflation since 2020 based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, West Region (All Items), as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor.
HB 2389 would take the raising of private privilege tax increases out of the hands of the Small Timberland owners which have cared for, perspired for, and have an invested years growing timber to maturity instead of harvesting trees like industry sometimes does and what we locally call "pecker-poles" (immature trees) from state and private forestlands. Additionally, there is Revenue Impact Statement, Fiscal Impact or/or Budget Report as it pertains to this Bill.

Best regards,
Tammie Murray
NW Oregon Coast Range

Underline added for Section emphasis only, not part of the original typeset printing of the HB 2425