

Severance taxes need to be revised to restore the millions of dollars that used to go into the counties. 3/5 of Clatsop County lands are owned by big timber companies that, aside from paying some funds for fire fighting, pay no taxes that support Clatsop County. Severance taxes now only go to fire fighting, ODF, and OFRI, a lobbying group that distorts science showing the impacts of the short cutting cycles that are destroying our soil, ignoring the millions of pounds/gallons of toxic chemicals that are being applied to Clatsop land contaminating our drinking waters and endangering fish and wildlife.. Our county struggles to fund our county as it faces rising health needs, including mental, drug, and emotional challenges, rising poverty, suicide, and homelessness, funding our schools, and the need for sufficient high speed internet in our extensive rural areas. Our North coast area gets battered by storms and is trying to be resilient as it facing the impacts of these storms that include flooding, landslides, and high winds. it is also getting ready for the Cascadia Subduction Earthquake and tsunami.

2/3 of Clatsop County lands have to generate enough tax revenue to fund county budget needs. It is an unfair burden as the major land owners are big, often international timber companies paying far less taxes than they used to pay.

Thank you for reading my comments. If you need more information please form a work group. Our counties really need this lost tax revenue.