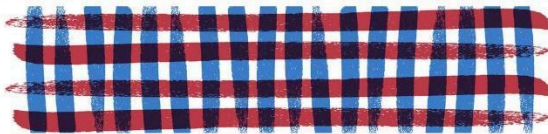




CLIMATE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT TEAM



**CONSOLIDATED OREGON
INDIVISIBLE NETWORK**

<https://www.coinoregon.org/2024-legislation>

February 12, 2024

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters, and other members of the House Committee on Revenue,

I am writing today on behalf of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) and its Climate Energy and Environment Team (CEE) to express our strong opposition to HB 4133. COIN is a network of over 40 Indivisible groups across Oregon, including and, in particular, Oregon's more rural counties, that collaborate to protect democracy and implement progressive values through voter outreach and education, campaigns, and elections, holding our elected leaders accountable, and advocating for legislation that best reflects our values.

It is certainly important for Oregon to fund strategies to prepare for and mitigate the risks and impacts from the increasing extreme wildfires we have experienced over the last several years. These intense wildfires have devastated communities - destroying homes, jeopardizing public health, and harming local economies. They have damaged forest and rangelands and threatened ecosystems.

In view of the costs Oregonians are facing for wildfire protection and mitigation, we cannot support a bill that would provide the timber industry and large landowners including the Wall Street investors that own a great deal of Oregon's private timber land, with a large tax break that would greatly reduce fees they pay for fire protection. HB 4133 would potentially reduce by millions of dollars annually, the fees the timber industry and large landowners now pay for fire protection. Under the bill, HB 4133, apparently taxpayers would pay additional taxes to make up these lost revenues for fire protection including to protect the timber industry's own trees. In effect, under this bill taxpayers would apparently be required to pay millions more annually in taxes for fire protection in order to allow the industry and large landowners to pay much less.

As Tax Fairness Oregon has noted about this bill, the timber industry has been given "massive tax breaks already. They absolutely should not be getting additional tax breaks." For more information on the long history of tax cuts given to the timber industry and its Wall Street investors and the devastating effects on our communities, workers, and families, [please read the investigation by ProPublica, Oregon Public Broadcasting and The Oregonian/OregonLive](#).

It is clear that with climate change, the threat to our families, homes, communities, and natural resources from dangerous wildfires will only increase. It is not the time to reduce further the responsibility of an industry to help protect natural resources they take so much of for profit and the neighboring families and communities.

We urge the Committee to vote no on HB 4133.

Thank you,

Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) and its Climate Energy Environment (CEE) Team