

Submitter: Sharon Waterman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure: SB1593

The Oregon Legislature needs to oppose this bill. Years ago, timberland owners had an option to pay the Severance tax at harvest or pay a tax on the land and timber based on market value. Many timberland owners chose the tax on land and timber. Now, timber land owners are expected to pay more? As small timberland owners by definition, we already pay for fire protection through our Coos Forest Protective Association. It is a tax on all timber and grazing land. The CFPA not only fights wildfires on its protected lands but elsewhere whenever there is a need. If you were an actual timberland owner, you would know the Private Forest Accord (PFA) rules have added a huge cost to the harvest of timber and now you want us to pay a tax on the gross product? Pretty soon, it will no longer be economical to even harvest the crop we have planted. The cost to provide wood for homes that the Governor wants to build will increase. For many retired small woodland owners, the PFA and this legislation will have a huge impact on their retirement income. Because of the PFA, approximately 25% of our timber (our retirement) has been taken from us with no compensation. No one has lost more timber under the PFA than those who are coastal timberland owners. It is not our responsibility to pay for the wildfires started by the public or mismanagement of timber land since we already pay our fair share of fire protection and have for over 50 years.