

Submitter: Karen Ashikeh
On Behalf Of: Oregon Forest Alliance
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure: SB1593

Large land owners and corporations or co-owners who own or control large tracts of land should pay taxes on what is cut, which is often beyond what is permitted for them to cut, and this funding should be used for improvements in local communities, including fire-proofing public buildings or (as seen fit by local government), restoring private homes and to help develop employment through local or regional programs for training, materials provisions and local work projects, such as timber workers and loggers changing careers. The programs for fire-proofing zones around public buildings and housing, on an on-going basis and for other measures to support tree health and wildlife can be funded. NO OLD GROWTH tree cutting should be allowed on these cuts, on private or public lands. NO NEW LOGGING ROADS should be funded with these funds, as the act of building these roads does long term damage to soils and wildlife, far beyond the period of the road build and may serve as incentives to more cutting, legal or illegal, impacting healthy nearby forests, for decades. Build the roads and they will CUT (trees). New forest roads should not be encouraged to keep cities or towns as active boosters to cut forests, private or public lands. Old unused roads should be blocked off to stop illegal cutting and public access by vehicle into forest areas.

Any Cutting for Wood Pellet fuel industry should not be allowed on public or private land, in Oregon, as processing in this industry increases local fire risk (storage of pellets) , pollutes air quality in processing and the movement of the pellets by truck and train and creates a product that releases more CO2 than burning coal, when used. The " Board feet" of timber produced is inapplicable as a way to judge taxation, promised in this bill, which would incentivize the cutting of trees on private land for wood pellets, rather than board feet of timber. Decimate a forest and pay no taxes would occur with timber cuts for wood pellets. Do NOT allow cutting for wood pellets that robs local cities of taxable timber revenue but leaves them with pollution and dangers of fire in these projects.

Thank you for considering these options in the final bill.
Karen Ashikeh, Beaverton OR.