

Darlene Chirman
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Written Testimony in support of SB1593

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Boquist, and members of the Committee:

Please accept this written testimony in support of SB1593; I urge you to vote yes on this bill. Oregon needs revenue to keep communities safe from wildfire, provide a stable source of funding for rural communities and to restore drinking watersheds. The home outward approach is scientifically sound for keeping residents and structures safe in fire-prone communities.

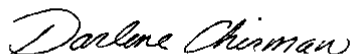
The measure will go to Oregon voters asking to restore a revised severance tax removed in the 1990s. The revenue would go to 4 areas:

- 1) **Department of Forestry, 25%.** For a suite of programs currently funded by Forest Products Harvest tax, which this measure would replace. Plus for wildfire fighting and the Oregon Conservation Corps.
- 2) **Office of the State Fire Marshall, 25%.** The suite of Community Risk Reduction programs for communities and homeowners, to increase fire-safety.
- 3) **Timber counties and local taxing districts, 40%.** Local control of how funds are spent. Would replace some of the lost funds when the timber severance tax ended.
- 4) **Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, 10%.** For restoration of municipal water supplies negatively impacted by logging and wildfire in their drinking watersheds.

The measure will be equitable, having a lower percentage for small forest landowners (1%), increasing to 6% for landowners of 5000 acres or more. Credit for landowners who pay other forms of harvest tax. Also planned will be incentives for climate-smart forestry, including longer harvest rotations and retention of mature and old growth trees during harvest. These strategies will provide climate mitigation for all Oregonians.

In summary, I urge you to vote in favor of SB1593. The goal is to make our WUI communities safer in wildfires, restore drinking watersheds impacted by logging and wildfire, and provide funding to support local services in timber communities. Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,



Darlene Chirman
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