

Submitter: Michael Honkomp
On Behalf Of: NA
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure: SB1593

I am a resident of Texas. While I am not a constituent, I have been coming to Oregon for 30 plus years. I come two or three times a year for the primary purpose of outdoor recreation. I hike your forests. I paddle your rivers. I work conservation projects that protect the unique resources you have. Oregon provides me with outdoor opportunities that are not easily found in my home state. I care deeply about your state and wildfire has become an increasing concern.

As a resident of Texas, I am well aware of the severance tax as it is a severance tax on oil and gas extraction that as part of the financial structure of our state government, it contributes to our fiscal prosperity in most years. And while I hope that oil and gas extraction soon go the way of the dinosaurs (the dinosaurs that in part create the carbon necessary to produce oil and gas), we have learned the value of a severance tax on the extraction of natural resources in sound fiscal and socially responsible policy.

Oregon SB 1593 is a perfect solution to fund the work necessary to mitigate wildfire and protect rural communities, their forests and their watersheds. It calls on the entities that in large part have created the problem, to participate in the funding to correct the problem. It also incentivizes those same entities to adopt effective forest management.

SB 1593 is responsible legislation that deserves priority in the Oregon legislature.

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