

Submitter: Chad Kernutt
On Behalf Of: WE THE PEOPLE
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure: SB1593

Dear Lawmakers,

Please vote NO on SB-1593. SB 1593 started off as an attempt to raise taxes on timber harvests and defund the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, but the votes weren't there. So, instead, the bill has proposed amendment to just "study" the concept of a severance tax for separate private and public as a permanent funding for forests, fire safe communities, county services and drinking water protection through a timber severance tax assessed on the sale of timber harvested on private land. The private severance tax would be imposed on the stumpage value of unprocessed timber harvested on private land, in excess of the value of the first 25,000 feet, board measure, of unprocessed timber harvested annually by the taxpayer, based on the number of acres of private land held in common ownership according to stated tiers. The public severance tax would be imposed at the rate of five percent on the stumpage value of unprocessed timber harvested on public land, in excess of the value of the first 25,000 feet, board measure, of unprocessed timber harvested annually by a taxpayer.

The taxes would be imposed in lieu of the current forest product harvest taxes, which would be repealed. The highly scripted "study" actually just helps the bill sponsor make the case to pass what is already prescribed in the bill as a revised timber tax in 2025. It has raised the exclusions significantly, but how does that compare with the current harvest tax it will replace?

WE THE PEOPLE, the consumers, do not want more taxes on what would be the products going to us because that means that we take on the added costs and burdens. Business/harvest taxes always roll down hill and land on the consumers. Why doesn't the legislature focus on the many things it's broken under 40 years of one party control and stop trying to think up new ways to infringe upon our rights or take money from our pockets at a time of high inflation brought on by liberal policies at the federal level. No new taxes!! That that includes studies of new taxes. WE THE PEOPLE are not going to keep taking the government encroachment into our lives and the robbery of our hard earned money from our pockets and families. Please vote NO on SB-1593. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Chad Kernutt
Albany, Oregon
IN GOD WE TRUST