

February 27, 2024

Senator Mark Meek, Chair  
Senator Brian Boquist, Vice-Chair  
Senate Committee on Finance & Revenue  
900 Court Street, NE Salem, OR 97301

RE: Opposition to SB 1593 (including -1 & -2 amendments)

Dear Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Boquist, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in opposition to SB 1593 and I urge the Committee not advance this bill during this short session.

This bill undermines Senator Steiner's efforts -- rather than moving this bill, you should support the ongoing effort in the Legislature (HB 4133) to address timber taxation and wildfire funding led by Senator Steiner and her work group that has invested significant time and energy to work through common ground approaches to address timber taxation and wildfire funding.

I do not support a severance tax based on the value. A value tax versus a volume tax will incentivize growing lower value, shorter rotation, timber. Tax policy should incentivize creating greater value in our forests, including increased carbon removals and storage.

Please do not eliminate OFRI funding. OFRI is a valuable source of educational and technical information relied upon by small forest landowners across the state.

Finally, the study proposed is designed with biased questions, will not offer a truly balanced assessment, and is a waste of tax payer funds.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to not advance this bill during this short session.

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