

Submitter:

Neil Westfall

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3489

My family and I own timberland and manage our 5th generation tree farm and ranch in southern Oregon. Over the last 80 years our families have lived and worked on our timber and ranch lands. We harvest our timber on a sustainable harvest plan, we have cut timber on our lands for the last 80 years and do not cut more than we grow. Taxes proposals like H.B. 3489 reduces the income my family receives from our work and 80 year investment. There are two choices taxes like this leaves us, cut more timber than we grow to make up for the tax increase or reduce our families income. My families cannot continue to loose our timberlands and the dollars it produces and stay in business. Two years ago the Private Forest Accord rules took about 10% of our timberland out of production and increased the costs for compliance to the new rules by at least another 10% to 15%. H.B. 3489 if passed will increase the taxes we pay on our timber crop by up to 800% and eliminates Oregon Forest Resources Institute. We as a family truly love and value our lands and our family heritage that goes with it, but it is a business and we have to be able to make a living from what the land produces. Currently our family ( 5 family units) have been having discussions about do we stay in business in Oregon or do we sell and leave Oregon. As elected officials your decisions do have consequences, and because of that we ask that you do "NOT" vote for H.B. 3489.