

Submitter: Annabelle Morgan
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3489

Dear House Revenue Chair Nancy Nathanson and Committee Members:
I appreciate the time and effort you dedicate to reviewing all the bills in your committee and the opportunity to be able to express my opposition to HB3489. My name is Annabelle Morgan. I live in Washington County and own forestland in Lincoln County. I oppose HB 3489 that would increase severance taxes on timber harvested from Oregon's family forest lands by 800% and abolishes OFRI which is solely funded by Small Woodland Owners' Harvest Taxes. OFRI not only supports services, educational accurate forestry and Natural Resource materials and workshops needed by OSWA members, but also educational publications and opportunities for school children and the public. With the price per MBF low, mills closed near our property, longer hauls and increasing logging and hauling costs, we cannot afford any additional taxes if we are going to be able to maintain our small family forest to keep this in the family for future generations. The tax is said to fund wildfire fighting; however, Small Woodland Owners already pay into Oregon's fire fund and pay more than other citizens in Oregon without forest lands even though all citizens are impacted by wildfire smoke and destruction of Natural Resources and Wildlife. Woodland Owners also often provide equipment and resources for fire fighting efforts even if these are on public lands. The bill ignores the Wildfire 35 Committee that currently is working to revamp wildfire funding, Abolishing OFRI is detrimental to all Oregonians. It is funded solely through Harvest Taxes paid upon logging our trees. OFRI programs and education materials and opportunities bridge the urban and rural divide and disconnect evident among urban and some rural children due to their lack of knowledge of how maintaining healthy forestlands and streams affects air quality, fish, and wildlife. It collaborates with OSU Forestry Research and Extension Service, and organizes Online and in-person classes on forestry management. It conducts workshops and develops educational materials for students, teachers, landowners, and the public, including publishing and revising The Oregon Forest Practices Act Handbook to make sure it includes the current regulations. It also assists with administering the Oregon Forest Practices Laws. Brochures, materials and lessons on fish & wildlife and the interrelationship in their ecosystem are science based. It works with experts to develop and distribute colorful and illustrated publications on Natural Resources and Forestry topics for teachers and school children, for the general public and for landowners. These are accessible and easily utilized by anyone needing them. It funds transportation for school children to attend Outdoor School forestry and other natural resource learning events especially giving opportunity to underprivileged and under-served students who would be unable to learn about our diverse Natural Resources and means of protecting these, and sustainable forestry. As a small family timberland owner

enrolled in the STF option, we already pay Property, Severance, Harvest and Income Taxes. As our closest mill has shut down making our hauling expense greater, log prices low, lack of truckers, and logging costs greater, we cannot afford increased costs. While waiting for trees to mature and log prices to increase, we must pay for road maintenance, combat invasive species, and for PCT in order to create healthy habitat, allowing trees and wildlife to thrive. Family small woodland owners are the backbone of rural Oregon, and they need support, not increased taxes. We love our forest lands. Our roots run deep. We, more than anyone else, are vested in maintaining a healthy forest and environment, but just as nutrients are needed for any plant to thrive, an 800% Severance Tax will cause the legacy our parents left us and ability to pass this on to the next generation to topple. Please vote NO on HB3489!