

Submitter: Heidi Christian

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3489

My husband and I live in the Camp Creek area, northeast of Springfield, atop McKenzie Ridge where we manage a 34-acre tree farm for timber production. We are concerned about HB 3489 which would raise taxes on timber harvest, eliminate OFRI, and give tax breaks to FSC but NOT ATFS through which we as Oregon Small Woodland Association members are certified.

As small woodland owners, we understand the role our tree farm plays in contributing to Oregon's clean water, clean air and wildlife habitat, while also sequestering carbon. In 1993, we planted 8,000 Douglas Fir and Ponderosa Pine seedlings. Prior to planting, the west end of McKenzie Ridge had only a small stand of Douglas Fir with scattered hardwoods; otherwise, this was a grassy area. Old timers had told us elk never came to our end of the ridge. Recently, due to the cover of our now 32-year-old stand, an elk herd as large as 52 head visited here. We know we have improved wildlife habitat as we manage our land sustainably.

When it was time to thin throughout 24 acres, though projected almost a break-even financial endeavor for us, it was yet a necessary practice to improve the health and fire safety of the remaining stand. And so, we sent 7 loads to the mills, paid our logger, and paid our harvest tax, realizing a net loss of \$800. It is not cheap to manage even a small woodland like ours! HB 3489 would most certainly impact us if we were required to pay more in harvest taxes. Moreover, HB 3489 would remove a great forestry resource, OFRI. And further, HB 3489 would give tax breaks to those whose tree farms affiliate with FSC, NOT ATFS, through which we have worked hard to attain our sustainable forestry certification as Oregon Small Woodlands Association members...this seems discriminatory.

Please, "NO" on HB 3489!