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RoseburgChamber.com

April 14, 2025

Dear Chair Nathanson and Members of the House Committee on Revenue,

On behalf of the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce, and the businesses, organizations and individuals we represent throughout Roseburg and Douglas County, we urge you to oppose HB 3489. There is, without question, a need to have adequately funding to manage wildfires and mitigate potential future wildfires in Oregon. However, HB 3489 is not the answer.

The significantly better solution is SJR 11, which is unanimously supported by a wildfire funding workgroup; the same workgroup that considered **and rejected the idea of HB 3489** because of its inequitable proposal to fund wildfire suppression and mitigation. That diverse group consists of family forestland owners, environmental groups, ranchers, health advocates, tribes and firefighters.

There is no need for the prejudicial, poorly conceived severance tax proposed in HB 3489. We experienced at least seven mill closures last year alone in Oregon, causing the loss of nearly 700 jobs. With the U.S. economy in flux, now is the worst possible time to heap new taxes on an industry that already pays more than 1.5 times the taxes of other like businesses in Oregon.

HB 3489 also defunds the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI). OFRI funds invaluable K-12 forestry education curriculum and provides much-needed training and other resources to assist landowners' efforts to sustainably manage our forests.

We respectfully request you vote "no" on HB 3489. Passage of HB 3489 would have devastating impacts on rural, natural resource-based economies like Douglas County and, ultimately, harmful for all of Oregon. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

ROSEBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
DOUGLAS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra L. Fromdahl".

Debra L. Fromdahl, IOM
President & CEO



To advocate for and be the voice of the business community in the greater Roseburg area.

To strengthen, enhance and protect our members through political advocacy, economical development, community promotion and member programs and services.