

Democratic Party of Lane County

2/15/24

RESOLUTION 2024.2

A Resolution of the Democratic Party of Lane County

Relating to costs of fighting wildland fires

WHEREAS, increasing wildfires due to climate change have negatively impacted the Oregon General Fund; and

WHEREAS, a greater and more stable source of funding for mitigation and fighting of wildfires is necessary; and

WHEREAS, small landowners, sustainable loggers and ranchers have been burdened under the existing tax system for wildfire fighting; and

WHEREAS, a planned tax relief bill proposed for consideration by Senator Elizabeth Steiner may improperly provide up to \$12 million in unneeded tax relief for larger logging and ranching corporations, many owned by Wall Street real estate trusts and investment funds; and

WHEREAS, large timber corporations pay little taxes now due to a 1990's era \$3 billion tax cut, which sapped money for libraries, prosecutors and sheriff's patrols in forested counties; and

WHEREAS, Sen. Jeff Golden is championing [SB 1593](#), with Rep. Holvey as a chief sponsor and Sen. Prozanski as a sponsor, which would refer a ballot measure for the 2024 general election to raise taxes on these large timber corporations by between \$75 million and \$110 million a year, partially restoring what counties once received as well as providing increasing funding for wildfire protection and protection of drinking water supplies that are impacted by logging;

THEREFORE, the Democratic Party of Lane County resolves:

SECTION 1: To oppose corporate forest tax relief that may be proposed by Senator Steiner; and

SECTION 2: To support [SB 1593](#); and

SECTION 3: To communicate our support and opposition to appropriate legislators and committees.

Further reading

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2024/01/17/property-fee-cut-from-controversial-wildfire-funding-proposal-but-big-timber-could-still-get-break/>

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2024/01/10/timber-industry-tied-to-proposal-shifting-wildfire-protection-costs-from-landowners-to-public/>

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2024/01/03/oregon-needs-more-money-to-fight-big-wildfires-who-should-pay-for-it/>

<https://www.opb.org/article/2024/02/02/oregon-timber-industry-tax-cuts-legislature/>

<https://www.opb.org/article/2023/12/23/jeff-golden-preps-proposals-wildfire-preparedness-funding/>