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**Advocate for taxing
timber fairly**

In 1999, Oregon granted Oregon timber companies and individuals, who own more than 5,000 acres of forest land, a **huge tax loophole** - an exemption from paying the timber harvest severance tax ([House Bill 3575](#)). The Oregon Legislative Revenue Office in its 2008 Research Report #5-07 (Oregon's Forestland Revenue - Impacts on State and Local Public Services) states, "Revenue loss associated with repealing the Privilege Tax and lowering the specially assessed values of forest land property is an estimated \$70 million per year." A more recent LRO report can be found [here](#).

This tax revenue giveaway has caused timber towns and counties to lose billions of tax dollars over the years, resulting in the loss of important government services like library, fire and police services! The timber companies got huge increases in their profits while the people saw increased taxes and reductions in services, even as they suffered large job losses.

To make matters worse, corporate publicists have diverted the blame for this impoverishment by blaming environmental protection rules regarding the spotted owl, salmon, and other endangered species. In fact, automation within the logging industry had a greater impact on loss of timber-related jobs during the 1990's.

This cover up has helped deepen the so-called rural-urban divide. All Oregonians have a stake in protecting our environment and ending this corporate tax giveaway. Please read this Oregonian/Pro Publica article for more details: [Big Money Bought Oregon's Forests Small Timber Communities Are Paying the Price.](#)

Now it's time to get our legislators to act.

Contact your state representative and senator demanding they work to end the "urban-rural divide" by re-enstating the timber severance tax. The elimination of the severance tax created a huge tax loophole favoring the wall street timber companies. It is time to eliminate this corporate tax loophole/giveaway.

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