

We live in one of the most beautiful states in the union and I believe, one of the most beautiful places on Earth. People come from all over to join Oregonians in one of our favorite past-times, camping. One can hardly find an open campsite here in the summer. A month ago, I made reservations at a Tillamook County campground, Waylon Island. It is a small, quaint campground with few amenities, no electric, no water hookups, just your rustic bathrooms. It now costs \$22 night plus an \$11 fee to make the reservation for a total of \$72.00 for two nights. I am a senior on a fixed income. My wife and I cannot afford to get on a plane to travel. I had not camped at Waylon Island for a number of years so I was shocked at this fee. State campgrounds in Oregon also charge around \$35.00 a night to camp. So where does that leave seniors and people below the poverty level? And is this going to cause a great deal of illegal camping in our forests, creating added fire dangers and litter that is not patrolled or picked up. In the last few years I have seen more and more people pull off the side of Hwy 101 to sleep in the waysides at night. Is this also because campground fees have gone up so much? And does the county have to incur more costs to patrol and clean up after these campers?

I understand that costs all over have gone up and Tillamook County as well as the state has to charge more for camping. But recently I have learned that the timber industry has worked themselves into a position of paying very little back to Oregon for cutting our forests. They have not paid any income tax since 2005 and only pay \$2.00 per acre for cutting and property tax, and this money goes to OFRI who channels it back to the timber companies for advertising etc. Recently a nice glossy three-fold brochure was passed around Tillamook County expounding the benefits of the Timber Industry. The only money we get from our forests is when the State of Oregon harvests one of their properties. The monies from that gets split between the county for county needs and the state to fund state expenses.

For years, the forest industry did give part of their profits to help run the schools and other county needs. I realize when companies get bought up by bigger companies, they want a part of the profits. So what I am asking is for Oregon to find a way so that a portion of these monies stay in Oregon, not go to Wall Street and their investors, so that Oregonians can enjoy the life that we have here, that counties can give monies to help the school systems, pave our roads and provide recreation opportunities for our residents.

Thank you.

Craig Mackie

Nehalem