

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 20, 2019 Contact: Kate Gillem kate.gillem@oregonlegislature.gov 503-986-1950

<u>Senate Republican Leader Statement on Rural Counties</u> <u>Awarded Over \$1 Billion in Timber Harvest Lawsuit</u>

SALEM, Ore. – Today, Senate Republican Leader, Herman Baertschiger, Jr. (R-Grants Pass) issued the following statement after the announcement of the jury in Linn County finding the state of Oregon owed over \$1 billion to 13 rural counties for failing to maximize timber harvests:

"This morning, the economic forecast said we had an additional billion dollars. This afternoon, a jury said they want it back. We better not spend the extra money because the state will have to pay up for mismanaging our forests for decades."

###