

Dear members of the committee:

My Name is Karl Dettwyler and I was born and raised on a family farm in Silverton Oregon. I currently farm with my Father, Uncle and Brother. I have been involved in the farm since I was kid. I decided to raise my family on the farm where I understood the hard work and modest living. For the last several years the work has become more challenging and the reward seems to be less and less. It feels as if I continually must pull myself away from the farm to testify or fight for my continued way of life. With the passage of any new law or tax program it requires more and more of my time away from farming activities. I must ask PLEASE STOP! I ask that you reach out to the Oregonians that make a living off the land and see how things might affect them. Each year there becomes a new form of tax. The CAT tax is just the newest form that has affected our bottom line. Not only do we get to pay this Tax ourselves, but we get to pay it for every business we purchase from as it is passed on to us through a new line item on the invoice. Unfortunately, we do not get to pass these costs on. We are price takers, and we must compete in a global market. Our margins cannot sustain all the new proposed taxes being introduced in amendment one of HB 2647.

- I strongly oppose the numerous taxes on working Oregonians proposed in the -1 amendment to HB 2674.
- This concept is tone deaf to the needs of Oregon families in 2021. Rural families, like mine, have been hit very hard by the state's response to COVID-19, devastating 2020 wildfires, and 2021 ice storms.
- The COVID-19 pandemic caused market disruptions which had major cash flow impacts on farmers and ranchers. And as with other sectors, many agricultural operations are currently at their breaking point.
- The -1 amendment taxes our tires, farm equipment, and our off-road fuel, and it will really harm those of us in agriculture.
- At its core, the -1 amendment taxes rural Oregonians to pay for problems in the most urban areas of Oregon. It's fundamentally unfair to saddle farm and ranch families with the cost of retrofitting Portland's fleets or cleaning up Portland's airshed.
- I oppose the proposed tax on tires and off-road equipment. These are an incredible overreach.
- I also oppose the proposed fuel tax on red dyed diesel. The reason off-road fuel isn't taxed is because farm equipment isn't used on public roadways!
- I know that the year-long Diesel Task Force considered many of these taxes and chose not to proceed. I respectfully ask the Committee to do the same today.
- All we ask this session is that our legislators focus on resolving the issues in front of them— COVID-19 response, wildfire recovery, and building back after the devastating February ice storms. Please stop making it harder for family farms and small businesses to survive.

I ask you to vote 'NO' on the -1 amendment to HB 2674.