

My name is Clinton Carlson and I am a Wheat farmer from Morrow County.

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 air shed.

I oppose the proposed tax on tires and off-road equipment. These are an incredible overreach. It is wrong to redistribute money by taxing a farmer, Construction Company who buys an updated piece of equipment and use that money to subsidize some other company to retrofit an older motor. Most of these older motors are used minimally during a year but have a place on the farm or forest.

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! The cost of fuel is already increasing with the policies being implemented by the new administration. Now you want to add a tax to an already inflated price?

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 support rebuilding after the devastating February ice storms. Please stop making it harder for family farms and small businesses to survive.

I also oppose sending money directly to the counties to entice them to support this bill, it is wrong!

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

Respectfully submitted

Clinton R Carlson

Wheat farmer

lone, Oregon

President of the Oregon Wheat Growers League