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Written Testimony Submitted via OLIS Testimony Portal

The Honorable Pam Marsh and Committee Members
House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State House of Representatives / Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Opposition to HB 2674-1 Amendment

Dear Chair Marsh and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition of HB 2674 -1 Amendment. The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce represents more than 400 businesses (employing more than 15,000 local citizens) that are committed growing business opportunities and providing family-wage jobs in our community. These businesses are essential to our local community and Oregon's economy.

Oregon families and small businesses have taken a beating over this past year. From COVID-19, devastating wildfires and recent ice storms, countless Oregon families and businesses have been negatively impacted by circumstances beyond their control. Our rural Douglas County community faced economic challenges prior to the onset of the pandemic and devastating wildfires last summer, leaving so many suffering. With so many still struggling to recover, we strongly oppose the numerous taxes on hard working Oregonians and our local businesses such as those proposed in the -1 amendment to HB 2674.

The HB 2674 -1 Amendment would harm our small and independently organized businesses in construction and mining businesses, as well as family farmers and loggers by taxing tires, off-road equipment, and off-road fuel. This proposed bill targets many of our local employers, employing a significant percentage of our working citizens.

The proposed amendment taxes small businesses, many of them in rural areas of Oregon, like Douglas County, to pay for problems in the most urban areas of Oregon. This is an incredible overreach, particularly after the Diesel Task Force considered many of these taxes in 2020 and chose not to proceed. It's fundamentally unfair to saddle our local businesses with this burden.

Now is the wrong time to tax small businesses, especially considering the challenges those businesses are currently facing. Please do not make it harder for small businesses and working Oregonians to survive during this time of crisis and recovery. I urge you to vote 'NO' on the -1 amendment to HB 2674.

Best regards,

ROSEBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Debra L. Fromdahl, IOM
President & CEO



*To advocate for and be the voice of the business community in the greater Roseburg area.
To strengthen, enhance and protect our members through political advocacy, economical development, community promotion and member programs and services.*