



Stayton Sublimity
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Thrive Together!

Stayton Sublimity Chamber of Commerce

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March 2, 2021

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

Thank you for the opportunity to write in opposition of HB 2674 -1 Amendment.

The **Stayton Sublimity Chamber of Commerce** represents over 650 local businesses throughout Stayton, Sublimity, Aumsville, Turner, Scio and the Santiam Canyon who are of the essential to our local communities and Oregon's economy.

Oregon's families and small business have taken a beating over this past year. Between COVID-19, the devastating impact of the Beachie Creek fire in the Santiam Canyon, and the recent ice storms, countless families and businesses in our region have been and continue to be adversely impacted by circumstances beyond their control. Our communities are doing **everything** we can. And now you want to create even more obstacles to survival for these same businesses! With so many still struggling to recover, we strongly oppose the numerous taxes on hard working Oregonians 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. We need these businesses to thrive, especially now, when we are going to be spending the next 5+ years rebuilding what was lost in the fires.

The proposed amendment taxes small businesses, asking those of us in rural areas of Oregon, 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 being faced. 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.



Respectfully,
Carm lle Bielenberg, Chamber CEO

David Giglio, Chairman
SSCOC Governmental Affairs Committee