

To Whom I May Concern: From Richard A Hayes

Education: BS Integrated Science Secondary Education Degree

Work Experience: Secondary Science Teacher 3 years; 43 years dry land wheat farmer; Substitute teacher and coach of various sports and grade levels

- 1) Gasoline and use fuel taxes are taxes used to repair and maintain roads and highways
- 2) Red dyed diesel is used off road (there are no road repairs or maintenance for State in wheat fields)
- 3) Home heating oil (stove oil is not taxed)
- 4) In 43 years of farming, dry land wheat farmers in the Columbia Basin have always looked for new farming methods to lower both fuel usage (inputs to produce crop) which lowers our emissions
- 5) Field preparation has gone from bottom plowing and burning, to minimum tillage/trashy fallow (leaving some residue on surface), to no-till.
- 6) Each change in farming methods has decreased both fuel usage and erosion!
- 7) In 43 years of farming, I have seen my off road fuel costs decline by some 40% or more because of these new methods.
- 8) I would suggest that law makers and DEQ get an education on dry land wheat farming before any drastic decisions that this bill entertains is passed.
- 9) Looks very much like a money grab to me and I am concerned how inefficiently and wastefully the money will be spent if the bill is passed. One just needs to look at the Oregon Energy Department with their track record of three failed solar panel factories (one which the city of Portland is still paying on) and their costly mass transit line (WES) that is costing Trimet \$108/rider. Also, don't forget the over payments to wind farm developers.
- 10) Recommendations for air quality improvement if serious about accomplishing something:
  - a) Have DEQ put together a study of their emission numbers before the pandemic, during the pandemic and after the pandemic and make comparisons. Also, number for gallons of fuel used before, during and after pandemic. This obviously reflected in the prices at the pump during these time periods.
  - b) Get satellite pictures from KGW (Matt Zaffino) of pollution before, during and after the pandemic. Pay special attention to China, Southeast Asia and India. During pandemic there is a definite shrinkage of the pollution clouds.
  - c) Perform a Study how working from home in Oregon has greatly improved air quality all over the state.
  - d) Study population increases in Oregon and its effects on crowded highways, pollution and any other problems as a result from the ever increasing population of our state (1960-poulation 1.7 mil, 1984-2.6 mil, 2020-4.25 mil). Tom McCall has turned over more than once in his grave!
- 11) Proposals: Tax breaks for businesses that continue to have employees work from home. Big consumption tax on items produced in China, Southeast Asia and India that are not used in Oregon manufacturing but are just sold in retail with no additional manufacturing. (Sports gear by Nike, Columbia and Adidas; Clothes and etc. There is no reason for my son in law to have 50+ running shoes). Put tolls on major highways to discourage unnecessary cross town and state travel. Tax jet travel heavily (BIG polluter) in order to discourage unnecessary travel.
- 12) Conclusion: This tax is narrow minded and focused on one group with a predetermined agenda that is not the best thing for the people of Oregon. Please remember the empty shelves in grocery stores during the pandemic and remember where your food comes from.

