

March 3, 2021

My name is Rodney Cheyne and I am a 4th Generation farmer/ rancher from Klamath 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 2674-1 amendment taxes our tires, farm equipment, and our off-road fuel which will, as a result, really harm those of us in agriculture. The agriculture industry in the state of Oregon has already decreased carbon output more than any other business in the state. We are using more efficient equipment and farming practices that use less fuel thus decreasing carbon output, not to mention our crops, like wheat, which help filter out carbon in the air.

At its core, the 2674 -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. Like with other issues in the state, many of our so called "for the people" government officials, fail to realize that Oregon is not comprised of just Salem and Portland. This amendment will impact our economy in a negative way. Your AG industry and those transporting our goods, are the backbone of this Country. To implement taxes that would cripple both, would skyrocket the costs of our products or put many of us out of business, leaving supply shortages.

If more of you left the city limits, and actually bothered to spend time with those of us that you've deemed "detrimental to the environment", you would see all that we are already doing to help combat these issues that you seemingly blame on us.

I am asking that our legislators focus on resolving the most pressing 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 during these apocalyptic like times.

I ask you to vote 'NO' on the HB 2674 -1 amendment and fight for those of us that are feeding and taking care of Oregonians, Americans, and citizens all over the world.

Regards,
Rodney Cheyne
Rodney Cheyne Farms
Klamath County President: Oregon Wheat League