

BRIAN PARKER

Junction City, OR

House Committee on Energy and Environment

COMMITTEE MEMBERS,

RE: HB 2674

I own and operate a farm in Lane County, with 8 full time employees. We have been in business since 1985. My employees earn family wages with benefits, and have done so for many years.

I urge you to vote no on this bill!

Regarding HB 2674, it appears it was crafted to harm famers, and other rural people specifically. I do not understand how adding ever more taxes to take more money from us will enable us to save the environment. Funds needed to support our employees, as well as to invest in new and cleaner equipment, are increasingly being asked for by the state through numerous little taxes, which not only take away our money, but cause us no end of additional compliance costs.

We just finished purchased new, clean, tier 4 diesel equipment, for which we already paid a state tax, yet you are considering adding yet more taxes to us? What does the state need the money for anyway? The current trend in Oregon state government seems to be in favor of ever more regulation and taxation. Many of us in Agriculture are beginning to wonder if we have a future I Oregon at all.

If a need exists for cleaning the environment, then please just add a carbon tax, and let everyone figure out on their own how to deal with it. This trend toward preplanned outcomes, increasingly used by you Legislators, tends to want to charge this group, and to give free money to that group who might be more in favor, and is destined to cause harm to all of Oregon. No one knows how every plan may play out over time, and you, least of all in the legislature, are equipped to tell us better how to do things than we ourselves can. You all simply cannot, think of every contingency and then legislate for it!

Also, it may not be something you are aware of, but additional taxes and other government fees often come from our take home pay. In agriculture we mostly sell into markets where we do not set the prices, so any legislative fee increase must come from existing funds, with no way to pass this along. This means lower wages paid to our employees, our families, and also less chance to replace old dirty diesel equipment with newer cleaner stuff.

One wonders if this might really be a ploy to intentionally harm rural voters, who most likely voted republican in the last election.

Brian Parker