



March 3, 2021

Chair Marsh and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment:

The Coalition of Responsible Oregon Producers is a group of members who formed just over a year ago with a shared concern for Ag policy in Oregon with a goal to ensure Oregon farmers have good public policy that contributes to their success.

The -1 amendments to HB 2674 do not represent such policies and CROP strongly opposes.

The last year we have seen a global pandemic, unprecedented wildfires and most recently devastating ice storms. The -1 amendment taxes our tires, farm equipment, and our off-road fuel. At its core, the -1 amendment taxes rural Oregonians to pay for problems in the most urban areas of Oregon. It is fundamentally unfair to saddle our rural growers with the cost to retrofit Portland's fleets or clean up their airshed. Furthermore, the Diesel Task Force spent ample time looking at these taxes and chose not to proceed.

Taxing farmers and ranchers at this time would be yet another hit to a year already marked by many hits. We firmly believe that our state needs to focus on COVID-19 response and the rehabilitation of our state after the devastating wildfires and ice storms. Now is not the time to impose new taxes.

We ask you to oppose the -1 amendment to HB 2674.

Sincerely,

Greg Loberg
Chair of the Board
Coalition of Responsible Oregon Producers (CROP)