

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.

Oregon's families and small business have taken a beating over this past year. Between COVID-19, devastating 2020 wildfires, and the recent ice storms, countless Oregon families and businesses have been negatively impacted by circumstances beyond their control. My business employs 25 people, and we take care of thousands of Oregonians. With so many still struggling to recover, we strongly oppose the numerous taxes on 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. You should go back and look at all of the taxes and fee increases that have been implemented over each of the last 20 sessions, it is truly amazing and it becomes a barrier to investing and growing a business and creating economic security for the families that benefit from a private sector job.

The proposed amendment taxes small businesses, many of them 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 is 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. The down-market affect which HB 2674 -1 Amendment would increase prices for both small businesses and consumers. New taxes that target the transportation industry increase costs which ultimately are passed down through increased prices. As our small businesses and communities are striving to make ends meet through the COVID-19 pandemic, implementing more taxes is irresponsible.

I urge you to vote 'NO' on the -1 amendment to HB 2674.

Respectfully,

T.J. Sullivan

Huggins Insurance