



Steffen Hay Inc.

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Steffen Hay is a family farm located 10 miles east of Salem. We consist of 5 families farming together harvesting alfalfa, grass and wheat. Back in the late 1970's neighboring farmers hired Stan Steffen to bale off their straw fields that could not be burned. This straw was introduced as an animal feed to Japanese cattle farmers as a good source of fiber for their cattle. Through the innovative help of those in the International feed market this "waste" straw now had value. The field burning ban fueled the development markets for this straw. It was quickly determined that loading the standard size bales was not cost effective. Stan and others used their fabrication skills to build machinery that would compress the bales to densify them for economical shipping. By the mid 1980's we had the machinery our farm needed to access the feed markets of the world, at the same time we solved the problem of removing the straw from the farmers' fields. This has been a very successful practice, but we have international competition for these feed markets. We are consistently working to keep ourselves competitive against other countries that are pushing into these same markets.

We believe that taxing our farm equipment is NOT in our best interest to keep us competitive and to keep our employees working. Therefore I support HB 3317 to keep our farms from further taxation.

Dale Steffen, President
Steffen Hay Inc
Silverton, Oregon