

Oppose HB 4141

Members of the Committee,

My name is Ben Stone. I am second generation Christmas tree grower here in Salem. I am writing in opposition of HB 4141 on behalf of myself and my family.

Our farm relies heavily on the use of Diesel fuel in the production of our crop. From the tractors, that till, fertilize and plant the fields, harvesting and all the way through to the hundreds of semi-trucks need annually for transporting our crop to market.

Research shows that there is not nearly a large enough supply of renewable diesel to immediately require Oregon's farmers to make the switch, not to mention the significant cost increase would be detrimental to a farmer's bottom line especially in light of all the other costs that are being / or trying to be thrown our way.

Oregon is known for growing many of the finest crop in the country, from Grass Seed to Hazelnuts, Corn to Christmas trees, we all rely heavily on diesel. If we want Oregon farmers to continue to be the benchmark of excellence, then diesel fuel needs to be available in large quantities at competitive prices.

The cost of farming in Oregon is forever rising, whether its taxes or wages, and of course fuel we are all struggling. If the goal is to put the farming community out of business and eliminate thousands of tax paying jobs, then please pass HB 4141. If this isn't the case, and we want Oregon to continue to be a global competitor in agriculture, bringing new money into this state, ***we need to shut down HB 4141.***

Please oppose HB 4141 for this generation of Oregon farmers as well as the generations to come.

Thank you for your time,

Ben Stone

BTN of Oregon