

Dear Members of the House Committee on Revenue:

My name is Jacqueline Duyck Jones. I am a 4th generation farmer and co-owner of Duyck Family Farm LLC in Banks, Washington County.

Our core mission is to continue to be a sustainable family farm and agribusiness for another hundred years, providing high quality commodities for consumers across the nation and world to enjoy.

We primarily raise Kotata blackberries, blueberries and grass seed on our farm.

Did you know that Oregon leads the nation in the production of frozen blackberries and grass seed? This is because of the cool wet winters, dry warm summers, the SOIL and of course the generations of Oregonians whom have been protecting our finite natural resources.

Commodities like our blackberries, blueberries and turf type grasses are specialty crops. Oregon is a specialty-crop state with 220+ recognized commodities. This is important to note because the specialty crops add tremendous value to the state of Oregon and Counties in which they are grown in providing not only food but economic diversity and opportunity (domestic and export value).

In any given year, we sell commodities to a number of wholesalers, commodity brokers, and processors, who in turn, resell our crops in the domestic or international commodity market. Currently, Oregon law allows farmers like us to more accurately calculate their CAT tax liability when comingled commodities are sold to brokers or wholesalers, and then sold out of Oregon, but not when we sell commodities to processors.

As farmers, we are price takers with narrowing operating margins. We have no bargaining footing for our fruit sold to processors to offset our CAT.

99% of the blackberries raised in Oregon are processed and shipped out of state.

We respectfully ask the Committee to support HB 2142 and Oregon agriculture.

This is an opportunity to fix what was intended with the HB4202 clarifications for farmers and ranchers. With this fix, I can not only plan and potentially plant more commodities for processing but the Committee will be showing support and value of Oregon agriculture as an economic driver and leading industry in our State.

Thank you for your time, consideration and support.

Jacqueline Duyck Jones