

Submitter: Michael Kortge

On Behalf Of: OWGL

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3158

- My name is Michael Kortge and I am a wheat producer in Wasco County. I am also a past president of the Oregon Wheat Growers League.

I strongly oppose House Bill 3158 and the numerous taxes on family farms it proposes.

- HB 3158 taxes our tires, off-road equipment, and off-road fuel: the inputs and equipment necessary to grow food for Oregon and the world. These would add a substantial cost to our operation that we cannot afford and will harm our family farm.

- This bill taxes farmers and small businesses, many of them in rural areas of Oregon, to pay for problems in the most urban areas of Oregon. It is fundamentally unfair to saddle our local businesses with the cost of cleaning up Portland's airshed.

- This is an incredible overreach, particularly after the Diesel Task Force considered many of these taxes in 2020 and chose not to proceed.

- I ask that policymakers focus this session on resolving the issues in front of them. Please stop making it harder for farmers and working people to survive during this time of crisis and recovery.

- I urge you to vote 'NO' on HB 3158. It is wrong to tax small businesses, particularly during such challenging times, in order to create a mega-fund for engine retrofits and replacements in the most densely populated areas of Oregon. It would make more sense to tax the EV industry.