

Fix Oregon's Farm Equipment Tax Exemption, Reduce Confusion Support HB 4111A

Current Exemption and Challenges

Since the Oregon Legislature first approved its property tax exemption for tangible personal property used in agriculture back in 1973, the nature of agriculture equipment has evolved. Current law provides an exemption for tangible personal property from a farmers property tax. However, it does not exempt real property, which is defined as "... machinery, equipment or fixtures erected upon, above or affixed to the land." The problem is, for a multitude of reasons, farm machinery is assessed when it is "affixed" to a building, and sometimes when it is not.

These complexities have led to disparities in the application of the law and unequal tax treatment among farm operations, impacting both farmers and county assessors in determining which equipment qualifies for exemption under <u>ORS 307.394</u>.



Proposed Solution and Benefits

Remove the distinction between tangible personal property and real property, making all equipment exempt that fits the statute's definition of farm equipment. HB 4111A, reduces confusion and administrative work for both farmers



and assessors while ensuring that the resulting change to statute does not constitute a major expansion of the exemption or large financial impact to county budgets.

Vote Yes on HB 4111A

For additional questions, please contact: Katy McDowell (<u>kmcdowell@thornrun.com</u>, 541-261-9112) or Lauren Kuenzi (<u>lkuenzi@oregonfb.org</u>, 503-559-5277)