

Submitter: Garrett Hightower
On Behalf Of: HB 3119
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3119

To whom it may concern. My name is Garrett Hightower i am a farmer from junction city. The ban on diesel vehicles in Oregon would be detrimental to the Oregon ag industry, as well as my family's farm. Many farms in Oregon need heavy duty diesel vehicles for short periods of time during peak busy seasons, including our farm. Those trucks might then sit in storage for 8-10 months of the year unused, such is the case on our farm. Most farms do not operate as year round over the road trucking company's. As a result they buy older used trucks that still have some life left because they can't afford the cost of a brand new truck, let alone one that will sit parked for 10 months of the year. Right now times are tough for Oregon farmers, grass seed prices are low, so low they are below cost of production for some types of grass. There are less vegetable processors in the valley then ever before causing a major reduction in available acres of cannery crops available. Hazelnuts are barely above break even. As a result of these market conditions its also causing a strain on ag support related industry's. The diesel ban is something Oregon farmers can't weather also. This isn't a matter of farmers not wanting to do this simply because they don't, its that they can't afford it. Farms would be shut down, jobs lost, homes lost, and communities broken apart. Please support HB 3119 if you support Oregon farms.

-Garrett