

Submitter: Susan Reams

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3119

My husband and I have owned and operated a 37 acre farm in Polk County for 31 years. Most of the farm is cropland and pasture. The remaining acres are river and riparian area for wildlife habitat. We raise and sell beef locally. We own 2 tractors. We use them both daily year round. In winter we scrape the beef feeding barn with tractors. The rest of the year we cut, bale, and store hay, mow blackberries, and mow grasses to maintain tree plantings in the riparian area. Mowing grass and blackberries also reduces fire danger in the late summer. We absolutely require diesel fuel to generate ag income, to maintain the wildlife habitat, and to reduce fire danger on our farm. We absolutely support HB3119. We could never afford an electric tractor, or any other alternative. Our operation would cease to exist. No more local high quality beef for our customers. No more riparian plantings. High fire danger in the late summer. We are not alone, many modest beef ag operations in the Willamette Valley are run the same way.