

Submitter: Kaitlyn Choate  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3362

My name is Kaitlyn Choate. I graduated from Oregon State University last spring and now work full time for my family farm, A&R Farms, based out of Scio. We raise grass seed, wheat, specialty seed crops, clover, and various other crops. We strongly oppose this bill.

This bill would have a disproportionate negative impact to family farms. It would add tremendous costs and would become a heavy burden on all Oregonians, but specifically rural farm and ranch families who have to travel long distances to as a part of their daily commute to work, school, the grocery store and social events. Tire prices are already ridiculously through the roof. We won't be able to afford to truck our wheat to Portland or further, or our straw down to Tangent so it can be pressed and exported.

A tax on tires, even limited to highway use, threatens to drive up input costs at a time when Oregon's family farms are already facing rising expenses and narrow margins. Taxes are not the answer, they are only going to kill the small American farmers that much faster. We are getting to the point of not being able to afford to operate. We operate vehicles that have both off road and on road uses. So we won't be exempt on the majority of our vehicles.

The cost for us agricultural producers is already prohibitively high. This adds another burden, making it unsustainable for farm operations.

This bill will over-burden family farms like my own and the many trying to operate around us as well.