

SB 217



See any 5th Generation Farmers?

Blaine Nofziger

4th Generation Farmer

- Live in Christmas Valley with my wife and 4 kids where we raise 4,000 ton of alfalfa and triticale hay with my Dad.

- Great Grandfather, Grandfather and my Dad were all grass seed producers in the Lebanon/Albany Area

My Dad moved to Christmas Valley in 1980.



The price of everything is going up. The cost of equipment parts increases every time we go to the parts store. Electricity went up by 30% a few years ago. And hasn't come down since, just the new normal. Nothing is going down in cost. Hay prices are strong right now, but anyone who knows agriculture knows that the down swing is on its way. Ag is always up and down. I am afraid of adding one bill that didn't exist last year.

3 reasons I think SB 217 is the wrong choice:

- 1) The last time that I dealt with the OWRD was in 2004. At that time they were 5 years behind on transferring water rights. This would not be acceptable in the private sector. The ship needs to fix the rudder not given a bigger motor.
- 2) This is a slippery slope that worries me a lot. Today it is a management fee, tomorrow a fee per gallon pumped?? Water is the life blood of my operation, as soon as it is seen as a income potential for the OWRD my family and farm will suffer.
- 3) In this money tight time that we are in what safeguards are in place to keep the OWRD's collected money from being taken and added to the States' General Fund. This could turn into a tax that my sons will be paying and OWRD will still be low on funding.