

Miller Tony

From: Anna Scharf <anna.scharffarms@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 7:48 AM
To: Sen Dembrow; Sen Edwards C; Sen Olsen; Se.FloydProzanski@state.or.us;
Se.ChuchThomsen@state.or.us
Subject: Please Vote No on SB824

TO: Senate Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Please vote NO on SB 824 – Oregon is NOT California

The Scharf Family has been farming in the Perrydale area since 1933 and remains a family owned operation. We employ twenty people full-time during the peak of harvest and several of them remain through the winter. Six of the employees are family members and two of the “non-family” members have been with the farm over 27 years. We also employ contract labor when needed.

We are a diversified farm raising a variety of grain crops, wheat, row crops, hazelnuts and wine grapes. All of these crops and our farming operation require diesel powered equipment to harvest, process, irrigate and transport.

Like many other family owned farms in Oregon “we work with the equipment that we have” and “new” is a relevant term. The average age of our equipment (tractors, pumps, trucks, pickups, etc.) is 25 years old. The core of our harvesting equipment is even older than that.

SB824 threaten the ability of our farm to operate as well as the need to employ a full time mechanic. While there are provisions in both bills to exempt farm tractors as defined by ORS 801.310 and vehicles registered as farm vehicles under the provisions of ORS 805.300 this takes into consideration only a portion of our farm equipment. The remaining equipment covered under the regulation in this bill would result in the need to upgrade or replace just under \$1M dollars in equipment for no other reason than to meet the new regulations. There will be no production or delivery efficiencies gained and no labor savings. It will simply be an expense.

Carbon emissions from various fuel sources has been a “hot topic” this legislative session and this is just another set of bills that has the potential to create more problems in an attempt to address an issue that may not even be an issue.

Carbon emissions are “offset” by oxygen which is produced by agricultural crops and forestland. Passing legislation that hinders the ability to produce “offsets” through natural resources seems a bit counter intuitive.

I urge the Committee members to vote NO on SB 824.

Regards,

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