

Dear Revenue Committee,

We cannot be present at the hearing tomorrow on HB 2859/Stafford Farming. Hence, I would like to present several concerns regarding this tax revenue change:

Local Stafford farmers provide significant benefits to the surrounding communities (West Linn, Lake Oswego, Tualatin and Wilsonville), who all enjoy their bounty. Eliminating tax incentives for these few remaining local farmers' would put many of these small farms out of business. Again, this would not only negatively impact the farmers themselves, but also all of the surrounding communities who have come to love and enjoy the benefits of the local farmers.

These farms provide a respite from the surrounding urban sprawl. Local schools have regular class field trips to the local pumpkin patches, Easter egg hunts, baby animals, and equestrian farms. These elements are essential to quality of life for schools, families and residents of all the surrounding communities.

In this age of urban sprawl, please do not remove the incentives for local farmers to provide one of the few remaining local sources of fresh produce, fresh eggs, pumpkin patches, apple cider, baby farm animals and fresh flowers. Local schools visit these farms every year. This change would impact over 100,000 residents in the surrounding communities (Tualatin 26,000 residents+Wilsonville 21,000 residents+West Linn 25,000 residents+ Lake Oswego 37,000 residents = 109,000 residents).

Please reconsider this revenue change as the impact on quality of life for over 100,000 Oregon residents is not worth the small increase in revenue.

Thank you for reconsidering HB2859.

Sincerely,
Kelly Bartholomew
22900 SW Stafford RD
Tualatin, OR 97962
(503) 709-5654