



March 1, 2017

House Revenue Committee  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: HB 2859**

Dear Chair Barnhart, members of the committee,

My name is Jerome Rosa, executive director of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association (OCA). OCA works to assist and represent all cattle producers throughout the state. OCA opposes House Bill 2859.

If HB 2859 were to pass, the exemptions and special assessments related to farms and farm equipment changes would be debilitating to Oregon's farmers. Farm equipment is expensive and to maintain the use of modern and efficient equipment the passage of HB 2859 would critically burden and cripple farms and forresters. Special assessments on land assist farmers and ranchers in housing agriculture workers. To eliminate the tax exemption would require farmers and ranchers to cut production and current service levels – ultimately detrimentally effecting Oregon's ability to produce products sold worldwide.

HB 2859 would sunset agriculture exemptions, diminish the value of farming, and risk our rural economy. Unintentionally this would magnify the perception that the legislature is indifferent to small, rural business and the parts of our state that are struggling the most, economically. The legislature faces tough budget decisions but to sunset these exemptions would be devastating to farmers and ranchers. HB 2859 is not good for our local Oregon farmers and ranchers.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jerome Rosa'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline for the 'J'.

Jerome Rosa, Executive Director