

From: Kevin Loe
To: [LRO](#)
Subject: HB2859
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 5:11:15 PM

Dear Representatives,

HB 2859

I am writing this letter in concerns to the additional tax that will incur with the passage of this bill.

I am a fourth generation farmer that is training and wanting to pass on my skills and success next generation staying in agriculture and hopefully many more.

I feel the pendulum has been swung too far to the left on agriculture. Between zoning, port trade, labor, rules, regulation and now taxes you will force us out of business. Agriculture producers have always been price takers and not price makers. We have always had to learn to get by and survive with what the market allows us to make. We are not allowed to go get I owe you' s when our equity runs out. Why does the State and the Federal Government not learn to do this? We cannot make promises we cannot keep without consequences. Where do we get this attitude that the public is owed and entitled to everything? I have always been taught you reap the rewards of what you sow.

Agriculture is not in the position to be able to generate more income to cover the additional taxation that the state seems to think they need. Based on the numbers that I have seen published Oregon is the second highest tax per person in the Northwest behind California. Where is all this money going?

Agriculture through the taxation of land and many other misc. taxes already pays more than is fair share. Agriculture and natural resources businesses have very little voting say on how that money is spent. It is not right that we put most of the burden of the natural resources that are privately held just because they are the minority and be out voted but pay the majority of the tax in the country.

If you expect Agriculture to survive you need to create incentives for agriculture to grow and prosper not to tax and regulate out of business. In the 115 years are family has lived here we have overcome many obstacles but when I look to the future I question whether the next few generation will survive due to the taxes, rules and regulations that are imposed on us as we look into the future.

Farmers are already taxed on their land, many of the products we purchase and sell, the income we produce on what is left and taxed again when we try to help the next generation start which is next to impossible with the cost of land and equipment. It takes several million dollars of investment to take a chance of making a very small return on that investment besides being up against Mother Nature and now you want to make us pay more tax. There is nothing left to give.

What good does it do to protect our future if those incentives are taken away to succeed?

We are truly the minority in today's population and do need protection in order to survive.

First off with zoning regulations you have allowed more people to move to the country to enjoy country living but you must understand this is a trap for agriculture when you zone for agriculture than allow development of rural housing next to it. This is a mix for disaster unless agriculture is protected. This would be similar to allow housing in an industrial or manufacturing setting than allow the public to regulate these businesses to death because they don't like the activities that take place in an industrial environment. You cannot allow people to the country and let them dictate how we manufacture food and fiber. We are a minority and do not stand a chance when facing people that have no idea about what we do. This invasion into agriculture has got to Stop if want to save

agriculture for the next generations.

Please listen and say no to HB2859 and bring this over spending to a halt and live within the means the revenues that are in existence.

Regards,

Kevin Loe