



URGE YOUR NO VOTE ON HB 2859

On behalf of family farmers, loggers, and rural landowners across the state, we urge you to vote NO on HB 2859, which would put the burden of tax reform squarely on the backs of rural Oregonians and hamper economic growth throughout the state.

HB 2859 would strike at a wide variety of critical investments in our homegrown agricultural and timber economy. **It would cut targeted support to agricultural workforce and infrastructure; eliminate protections that preserve farms, forests, and open space; and reduce tools for effective natural resource management.** For example, HB 2859 would eliminate a tax exemption that supports housing and childcare facilities for agricultural workers. In addition, it would undo farm and forest use assessment provisions that prevent encroaching urban uses from pricing farmers and foresters out of the land that they rely on to support their families and the local workforce. These are vital elements of Oregon's land use planning system that recognize the value of the agricultural and forest production for which these lands are zoned.

Moreover, **HB 2859 would halt much-needed progress toward modernizing farm and forest infrastructure—progress that results in increased economic efficiency and more environmentally sustainable agricultural and forestry practices.** Passing HB 2859 would raise the prices to farmers and foresters for upgrading old equipment, improving wildlife habitat conservation and management, and developing better irrigation systems. These increased burdens would make Oregon less competitive in the global economy and would stunt natural resource conservation and management initiatives here at home.

We understand that the legislature faces tough choices as it grapples with a budget shortfall and a variety of ambitious goals for the future. But we must do everything we can to maintain the progress we have already made, and not to leave rural Oregon out of the opportunity to share in future prosperity. **Please support agriculture and forestry employers, employees, and landowners by voting NO on HB 2859, so that we can work together to make Oregon products globally competitive and to modernize and innovate in rural economies.** Thank you for consideration, and we look forward to continued partnership to lift up rural Oregon.