



Steffen Hay Inc.

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Steffen Hay is a family farm located 10 miles east of Salem. We consist of 5 families farming together harvesting alfalfa, grass and wheat. Back in the late 70's neighboring farmers hired Stan Steffen to bale off their straw fields that could not be burned. This straw was introduced as an animal feed to Japanese cattle farmers as a good source of fiber for their cattle. Through the innovative help of those in the international feed market this "waste" straw now had value. The field burning ban fueled the development of markets for this straw. It was quickly determined that loading standard bales was not cost effective. Stan and others started using their fabrication skills to build machinery that would compress the bales to densify them for economical shipping. By the mid-eighties we had the machinery our farm needed to ship compressed bales worldwide. These machines allowed farmers to access the feed markets of the world at the same time we solved the problem of removing this straw from the farmers' fields. This has been a very successful practice, but we have international competition for these feed markets. We are consistently working to keep ourselves competitive against other countries that are pushing into these same markets. We believe that taxing our equipment is not in our best interest to keep us competitive. Therefore, I support amending SB 596 to protect property tax exemption for straw compression machinery and equipment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Steffen", is written over a horizontal line.

Dale Steffen, president

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Silverton, Oregon