

My family operates a wheat and cattle farm in Eastern Oregon, and I would like to offer my testimony against HB 2674-1, which would end up imposing additional taxes on working farms in Oregon. We could potentially be negatively financially impacted by every additional tax proposed in this amendment. The taxes on tires, nonroad diesel equipment, diesel trucks, and dyed diesel are basically sales taxes on many of the essential inputs and equipment we use to grow food for Oregon and the world. We purchase thousands of dollars in tires and dyed diesel each year to keep our equipment running safely and productively. The taxes on equipment that is necessary for raising our crops would add a hefty additional cost to things that are already exorbitantly expensive such as pickups, grain trucks, combines, tractors, and utility vehicles.

For example, let's say a farmer purchases a large used tractor for seeding, weed control, and pulling a grain wagon to ferry wheat to trucks during harvest. If the purchase price is \$200,000, the tax on this vital piece of equipment would be \$3,000. With farms operating on thin margins, these extra taxes will place an undue burden on the families who raise your food.

Unlike many other industries, wheat and cattle farmers do not have the opportunity to set our own prices for our products. We are at the mercy of the grain and cattle markets and we cannot pass on any additional costs from sales taxes to the buyers of our crops.

In contrast, some of the vendors we purchase our inputs from will be able to pass on their costs from these taxes to us by simply raising the prices of their products, so farmers could end up paying even more than was intended by the authors of the bill.

In order to raise our crops, we use the tools we have available in the most responsible manner possible. To tax these tools would be extremely unfair. When new tools become available, proven, and affordable, I'm sure farms will be ready and willing to make the changes needed to move toward cleaner energy.

I completely understand the urgency of combating climate change, and I agree that the change to cleaner energy is critical to the survival of our planet. However, the solution needs to be thoughtful and fair, and not create more hardship for hardworking farms. Family farms provide food, generate employment, and pour thousands of dollars into local Oregon economies every year. Please show some support for them and vote NO on HB 2674-1.

Sincerely,  
Amy Kaser, Democrat  
Wheat and Cattle Farmer  
The Dalles, OR