

My name is Jennifer Behnke and I am a business owner in Yamhill County. I strongly oppose the numerous taxes on working Oregonians proposed in the -1 amendment to HB 2674.

Countless families and small businesses have been negatively impacted by the state's response to COVID-19, devastating 2020 wildfires, and 2021 ice storms. The -1 amendment taxes our tires, off-road equipment, and our off-road fuel. It will harm small and independently organized businesses, construction and mining businesses, as well as family farmers and loggers. The proposed amendment taxes small businesses, many of them in rural areas of Oregon, to pay for problems in the most urban areas of Oregon. It's fundamentally unfair to saddle our local businesses with the cost of cleaning up Portland's airshed.

This is an incredible overreach, particularly after the Diesel Task Force considered many of these taxes in 2020 and chose not to proceed. All that we ask this session is that policymakers focus on resolving the issues in front of them—COVID-19 response, wildfire recovery, and building back after the February ice storms. Please stop making it harder for small businesses and working people to survive during this time of crisis and recovery.

I urge you to vote 'NO' on the -1 amendment to HB 2674. It is wrong to tax small businesses, particularly during such challenging times, in order to create a mega-fund for engine retrofits and replacements in the most densely populated areas of Oregon.