

•My name is Ben Maney and I am 5th generation farmer and rancher from Umatilla County.

•I strongly oppose the numerous taxes on working Oregonians proposed in the -1 amendment to HB 2674.

•We as farmers and ranchers are price takers. We don't have the luxury of setting the sale price of our commodities. We take what the market gives us. We have been devastated this past year from wildfires, drought and market losses from COVID for our family farm and ranches. My farm is already seeing major fuel and chemical increases that will challenge us for a break even 2021 year. Adding a tax to our tires, farm equipment, red dyed diesel and then using that money to update equipment across the state is absolutely ridiculous.

•Our rural communities are extremely fragile and many of our small towns are at a breaking point that are supported by the strong consistence of our family farms. Implementing another tax on a family farm and ranches; you will directly hurt every rural community in the state and limit what makes this state so diverse and uniquely better then many of neighboring states. Oregon is agriculture and was built by family farms working the ground to feed the world. Taxing the most important input in our operation for the opportunity to give grants to companies to update there diesel equipment on the west side of the state is wrong.

•Lets work on recovering from a tough 2020 year and work on saving our family farm and ranches across Oregon in 2021. God knows my farm needs a couple years to recover. I want my farm to continue into a sixth generation; so, easy on the taxes and let our family farms and ranches across Oregon do what they do best. We not only supply high quality food our state, but our commodities travel the world feeding the world.

•I ask you to vote 'NO' on the -1 amendment to HB 2674.

Sincerely,
Ben Maney
Maney West Farms
Proud Oregon Wheat Growers League Member