

Submitter: Evan Kruse
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB4141

Members of the Transportation Committee:

I farm approximately 350 acres in the Umpqua Valley on our 99 year old family farm. The farm has changed much over the decades from an operation that exported cauliflower, broccoli and cabbage by rail to the bay area to an alfalfa, grass hay, grass seed, cherry and blueberry farm that now focuses on reduced and no-till practices and crops that drastically increase carbon content in the soil. Where we used to till the soil twice a year, I now till many fields only once a decade.

Not only do my crops sequester carbon, many of them contribute to further carbon sequestration by feeding livestock in the area. Their grazing operations naturally sequester carbon and also make our rural communities more fire resilient through fuels reduction. This partnership really is a win/win scenario.

While we do not use nearly as many gallons of diesel on our farm as in years past, reducing annual usage from around 15,000 gallons per year to under 4,000, the equipment that runs on diesel is still absolutely necessary. Without it, this type of farming could not exist. There are not alternatives available in the marketplace to electrify the rolling stock on the farm and there are not alternative-fuel options that can generate the power needed on our farm. Even if electrified equipment was available, it will be many years before the local electricity infrastructure can handle the massive power demands for charging such equipment.

Please do not support restrictions on farms using diesel fuel. At this point in time, and in the foreseeable future, switching away from diesel fuel is not viable option. If diesel fuels need to be restricted, there is much more sensible opportunities in high-density metro areas with the electrification of transit and delivery vehicles. At some point, farms will certainly electrify or switch to alternative fuels that make sense. But mandating a switch before the economic viability in doing so exists will only lead to widespread failure of farms and the termination of all the progress we've been making on environmental stewardship in agriculture.

Thank you for your time.

Evan Kruse
4th generation farmer
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