

Dear Members of the House Committee on Revenue:

My name is Taylor Martin and I'm privileged to be a 5th generation farmer in the Willamette Valley. At G&C Farms, we specialize in Grass Seed, Hazelnuts, Blueberries and Blackberries, and we are very proud of the quality of crops we grow.

I don't take the opportunity to farm lightly. It comes with a lot of sacrifice and hours and risk, but it's all worth it. To provide for our local community and make a difference in the world through the food we eat, I find great satisfaction. On top of that, raising my family in a setting that provides my two sons opportunities to learn and fail and grow, and see the beauty of their hard work turn into food is something I have fallen in love with.

Two summers ago the heat dome wrecked our blackberry crop. Resulting - in part to that devastating situation - Secretary Tom Vilsack, along with Governor Brown, came and visited our farm. One of the things I remember quite clearly is his so clearly is when he said that Oregon agriculture is the model for how the rest of the nation is heading: specialty crops and high value opportunities. A big reason for this is the great soil and climate, but also the effort that's been put forth into infrastructure and processing.

With that said, it's the sales to those processors where we are really feeling the hit of the CAT Tax. We are in a competitive market against other farmers domestically and internationally, and with most of our blackberries being shipped out of state, that's a tough deal to overcome.

I am asking the Committee to support HB 2142 in support of our state's agriculture. With your support we can rectify the intended purpose of HB4202 clarifications. I look forward to a long future farming in this state and would appreciate you partnering with me and other young farmers in this issue.

Taylor Martin