

Submitter: Irene Gilbert  
On Behalf Of: Oregon Loggers and farmers  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure: HB3158

Off road diesel equipment is not what you see on the highways or in use for recreation. This equipment is in use in the forests, on farms and construction sites. The governor claims that she is committed to providing more housing. Increasing the costs to produce lumber and run heavy equipment for constructing homes flies in the face of any efforts or money that is thrown at the housing crisis.

This bill is a direct attack on the logging, construction and farming communities of this state and those employed in those professions. These are the people who use off road diesel equipment on a daily basis to provide housing and food for Oregon citizens. Taxing those who produce items necessary for shelter and food is incredibly short sighted. The Oregon public is already suffering from the increased costs of producing and transporting necessities due to the increased costs of gas. This bill will add another layer of taxes that will add to those costs every time a farmer, logger or construction worker goes to work. Surely the members of this committee are smart enough to understand that farmers and others using diesel powered equipment will not be able to continue feeding and housing citizens unless they receive increased payments for what they produce and the work they do. I am sure there are those that will provide tables, predictions, and opinions that this tax will have little or no effect on the prices that citizens are currently being faced with when they want to obtain lodging or feed their families. As in the past, these predictions will provide a rosy picture of what a benefit this tax will provide by making some insignificant impact on Global Warming at some future date. Oregonians living on the streets and going hungry today have a hard time understanding how those who are supposed to represent them can justify increasing the desperation of their current situation which for some is life threatening. Decisions which make basic life necessities further and further out of reach are not good public policy. Oregon citizens are already sacrificing more than their share in terms of money, inconvenience and quality of life for the sake of reducing this states carbon footprint. Give the thousands of citizens without homes and who are already making hard choices at the grocery store a break. Don't make their choices even more limited than they are already. I encourage you to refuse to support this bill and let it die in this committee.