

Submitter: Katie Baltzor

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3158

I am a cattle rancher in Harney County and we simply can not afford to be continually taxed to help solve the air quality problems in the urban areas. This bill creates a slew of taxes placed on the backs of a few industries: forestry, construction and agriculture. On our ranch we rely on our trucks and trailers to move our cattle to their summer ground and throughout the next eight months to check on them, put out salt/mineral and move them to various pastures. We then have haying equipment to put up our cattle feed for the winter, which consists of tractors, mowers, rakes, balers, loaders and flatbeds. In the winter, we use our tractors and hay wagons to feed our cattle. What equipment we don't have, we rent or contract with someone who does. We are a small family ranch, but we still use a lot of tires, dyed diesel and off-road diesel equipment. We do all of this to feed the public, as you rely on us and our products. We have a slim profit margin and our selling prices have not kept up with the rising costs we incur. Selling beef calves is different than most businesses, as we don't set our price. We don't receive the dollars per pound that you see in the meat department of your supermarket.

This bill will create a hardship on the above-mentioned industries just for the purpose of building a large fund for engine retrofits and replacements. I think Oregon has much more pressing issues that need your attention. Oregon already has businesses and residents leaving our state due to high taxes and absurd laws. We don't need to be in the business of putting people out of business. For this reason, I urge you to vote no and stop this bill now!