

Submitter: Jeff Heater

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3158

My name is Jeff Heater and I am a business owner in Wasco County.

I strongly oppose the numerous taxes on working Oregonians proposed in House Bill 3158.

Countless families and small businesses have been negatively impacted by the state's response to COVID-19, inflation, the devastating wildfires in 2020, and the never ending adoption of more and more taxes.

HB 3158 taxes our tires, off-road equipment, and our off-road fuel. It will really harm small and independently organized businesses construction and mining businesses, as well as family farmers and loggers.

This bill taxes small businesses, many of them in rural areas of Oregon, to pay for problems in the most urban areas of Oregon. It's fundamentally unfair to saddle our local businesses with the cost of cleaning up Portland's airshed.

This is an incredible overreach, particularly after the Diesel Task Force considered many of these taxes in 2020 and chose not to proceed.

All that we ask this session is that policymakers focus on resolving the issues in front of them. Please stop making it harder for small businesses and working people to survive during this time of crisis and recovery.

I urge you to vote 'NO' on HB 3158. It is wrong to tax small businesses, particularly during such challenging times, in order to create a mega-fund for engine retrofits and replacements in the most densely populated areas of Oregon.