

Submitter: Amy Kaser

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3158

Hello, my name is Amy Kaser, and I am a wheat and cattle producer in Wasco County. I am testifying in opposition to HB 3158. This bill will have a negative impact on family-operated farms, which are major contributors to Oregon's economy. To raise our wheat crop, we rely on our large equipment that runs on off-road diesel. We currently have no well developed or affordable alternatives to diesel powered tractors and combines, and imposing a tax on the fuel and tires that this equipment runs on makes it even less likely that we will be able to afford the conversion if it ever becomes available. I would argue that food security is one of the most important factors in keeping our state and our nation stable, and a movement to increase the cost of farmers' inputs seems counterproductive to solving any problem, including that of climate change. I have witnessed drought that wiped out our pasture and reduced our yields and wildfires that consumed our fields and burned up our fences and destroyed the summer feed for our cattle. As a farmer, I probably am more affected by climate change than the average person living in Portland, and I see the urgent need for action. But we must protect the businesses that feed the world - agriculture should be deemed a necessary industry and should not be targeted for additional taxes.