

Dear Representative Dent,

On behalf of the Agriculture Industry Coalition listed below, we write to express our strong support for your latest draft of HB 1912 that recently passed the House almost unanimously. This bill now includes provisions designed to streamline the availability and use of exempt agricultural fuel in our state, offering critical benefits to both agricultural producers and the fuel sellers who serve them.

The measures outlined in the bill are particularly valuable to our industry. Requiring the Department of Ecology to maintain a directory of retail sellers offering exempt agricultural fuel, along with a guide for eligible users, will bring much-needed transparency. Making these resources accessible by July 1, 2025, will help agricultural producers secure the fuel they depend on for their operations. Additionally, financial incentives for retail sellers to offer exempt agricultural fuel at a differential rate will help reduce cost barriers for farmers, supporting their long-term economic sustainability.

We also appreciate the inclusion of exempt fuel purchase aggregators and membership-based payment options, a forward-thinking approach that ensures our industry's diverse needs are met while upholding the program's integrity. Establishing a bona fide agricultural exempt fuel user verification process is another key improvement, ensuring that only those truly eligible for the exemption benefit from the program while maintaining oversight through the Department of Licensing.

Lastly, we thank you for securing a bipartisan agreement that ensures the exemption through December of 2029, for transporting agricultural products on public highways. This extension incorporates certainty for our producers, ensuring they can continue relying on this exemption as they work to feed and fuel the state and the nation. We also want to express our appreciation for Governor Ferguson's partnership, hard work, and commitment to seeing this legislation pass the House with overwhelming bipartisan support and move on to the Senate, so he can sign it at his desk. The near-unanimous approval in the House reflects the broad recognition of how vital this bill is for Washington's agricultural industry. Kudos to you, Representative Dent, for your willingness to collaborate with all parties committed to solving this issue and ensuring a balanced and effective solution.

We strongly support this critical legislation and urge its continued advancement. The agriculture industry remains committed to sustainable practices, and this bill ensures we can continue to do so while maintaining the competitiveness and viability of our farms and ranches.

Thank you for your leadership on this matter. We look forward to working with you to ensure the successful passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Washington State Dairy Federation
Northwest Agricultural Cooperative Council
Washington Potato and Onion Association
Washington Friends of Farms and Forests
Washington State Tree Fruit Association
Yakima-Klickitat Farm Association
Washington Association of Wheat Growers
Far West Agribusiness Association
Washington Cattlemen's Association
Northwest Grain Growers
Washington State Water Resources Association