

March 18, 2025

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Energy, Environment, and Technology Committee,

On behalf of the Agriculture Industry Coalition listed below, we write to express our strong support for HB 1912, which recently passed the House in an overwhelming 93-4 vote. This bipartisan, well-vetted legislation ensures continued access to exempt on-road agricultural fuel, extending the exemption through December 2029.

This measure is crucial for real farmers growing real food—food that sustains not only their communities and our state, but the world. The vast majority of Washington farmers are now receiving fee-free fuel, and this bill ensures that the few still at risk of being missed continue to be covered through an ongoing rebate program.

Key provisions of HB 1912 will streamline fuel access by requiring the Department of Ecology to maintain a directory of exempt fuel sellers and a guide for eligible users, ensuring transparency and accessibility by October 1, 2025. Financial incentives for retailers to offer exempt fuel at a differential rate will further help alleviate cost burdens for farmers. We also appreciate the forward-thinking approach of allowing exempt fuel purchase aggregators and membership-based payment options, ensuring flexibility while maintaining program integrity.

We are especially grateful for the bipartisan leadership behind this bill, including the steadfast commitment of Governor Ferguson and Representative Dent, whose dedication has been instrumental in solving this issue. Their efforts have brought together a broad coalition in support of Washington's agricultural industry. While we recognize that not every voice in agriculture has aligned in support, we remain committed to securing solutions that benefit farmers and our state's economy. We believe HB 1912 currently does that.

We sincerely appreciate this committee's time and consideration of this essential legislation. The agriculture industry remains dedicated to sustainable, competitive, and viable farming practices, and HB 1912 plays a vital role in ensuring our success.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to Washington's farmers. We look forward to working with you to secure the 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
Washington State Sheep Producers
Northwest Grain Growers
Washington State Water Resources Association
Washington Cattle Feeders
Whatcom Family Farmers
Save Family Farms