

February 24, 2010

The Honorable Frank Chopp  
Speaker of the House  
Washington State House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600



200 SW Market St.,  
Suite 190  
Portland, OR 97201  
Ph: (503) 227-0234  
Fax: (503) 227-0059  
www.pnwgfa.org  
pnwgfa@pnwgfa.org

**Re: Opposition to SHB 3181 and SB 6851**

Dear Mr. Chopp:

On behalf of the 91 member companies of the Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed Association, we are writing to strongly urge you to oppose two measures - SHB 3181 and SB 6851. These bills would directly impose a tax that will bring higher prices for our fertilizers and pesticides and create a hidden tax that will cause higher costs for farm equipment diesel and higher shipping rates to get our commodities to market. Given our current economic climate, our members are already struggling to stay in business. This new tax burden, direct or hidden, would seriously jeopardize the businesses of many of our members resulting in the loss of jobs.

Proponents of these measures talk about the desperate need for funding stormwater clean-up and that may be a laudable goal. However, stormwater run-off problems are the direct result of impervious surfaces. Our farmlands, because they are not covered by impervious surfaces, are natural stormwater filters. Farms do not contribute at all to this problem, but they will certainly be hit hard by the costs associated with this proposed "solution". There is no defensible nexus between taxing farms to deal with pavement-caused issues.

All of these taxes will eventually be passed on to the farmer. Our farmers have no opportunity to pass increased costs onto consumers as anticipated in this proposal. Every increased cost in this proposal is a direct hit to the family budgets of our farmers and their workers. They simply cannot afford this right now.

Most agricultural activity in Washington occurs outside the central Puget Sound area. While proponents say that cleaning up stormwater should be everyone's number one priority, our farmers will be forced to pay up, but see very little direct benefit. Add to that the fact that this proposed \$224 million MTCA increase is really a general fund bailout masquerading as environmental action and it makes our members very upset and rightfully concerned about their futures.

This new tax will significantly increase prices for products our farmers need and must use, it is especially damaging during these trying economic times. Washington's farms are already struggling to make ends meet. Now is not the time to drive up prices and destroy jobs. Please vote No on SHB 3181 and SB 6851.

Thank you,

John Evans, 2009/2010 President PNWGFA Board of Directors  
Evans Grain, Feed & Seed Company

**PNWGFA Board of Directors:**

Dain Lauderback, The Scouler Company - 1st Vice President  
Sam White, Pacific Northwest Farmers Cooperative - 2nd Vice Pres.  
Kevin Whitehall, Central WA Grain Growers - Immediate Past Pres.  
Steve Yorke, United Harvest, LLC - Treasurer

Bud Riedner, Kalama Export Company  
Jeff Kaser, Mid Columbia Producers  
Dave Gordon, Northwest Grain Growers  
Dan Bahr, Pendleton Flour Mills, LLC

February 24, 2010

The Honorable Richard DeBolt  
Minority Leader  
Washington State House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600



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Ph: (503) 227-0234  
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**Re: Opposition to SHB 3181 and SB 6851**

Dear Mr. DeBolt:

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Bud Riedner, Kalama Export Company  
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Dave Gordon, Northwest Grain Growers  
Dan Bahr, Pendleton Flour Mills, LLC

February 24, 2010

The Honorable Hans Dunshee  
Chair, Capital Budget Committee  
Washington State House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600



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Portland, OR 97201  
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**Re: Opposition to SHB 3181 and SB 6851**

Dear Mr. Dunshee:

On behalf of the 91 member companies of the Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed Association, we are writing to strongly urge you to oppose two measures - SHB 3181 and SB 6851. These bills would directly impose a tax that will bring higher prices for our fertilizers and pesticides and create a hidden tax that will cause higher costs for farm equipment diesel and higher shipping rates to get our commodities to market. Given our current economic climate, our members are already struggling to stay in business. This new tax burden, direct or hidden, would seriously jeopardize the businesses of many of our members resulting in the loss of jobs.

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Evans". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

John Evans, 2009/2010 President PNWGFA Board of Directors  
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February 24, 2010

The Honorable Doug Ericksen  
Minority Floor Leader  
Washington State House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600



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Dear Mr. Ericksen:

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Dave Gordon, Northwest Grain Growers  
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February 24, 2010

The Honorable Bill Hinkle  
Minority Whip  
Washington State House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600



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Bud Riedner, Kalama Export Company  
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Dave Gordon, Northwest Grain Growers  
Dan Bahr, Pendleton Flour Mills, LLC

February 24, 2010

The Honorable Zack Hudgins  
Majority Floor Leader  
Washington State House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600



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Dave Gordon, Northwest Grain Growers  
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February 24, 2010

The Honorable Lynn Kessler  
Majority Leader  
Washington State House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600



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Suite 190  
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Ph: (503) 227-0234  
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**Re: Opposition to SHB 3181 and SB 6851**

Dear Madam Kessler:

On behalf of the 91 member companies of the Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed Association, we are writing to strongly urge you to oppose two measures - SHB 3181 and SB 6851. These bills would directly impose a tax that will bring higher prices for our fertilizers and pesticides and create a hidden tax that will cause higher costs for farm equipment diesel and higher shipping rates to get our commodities to market. Given our current economic climate, our members are already struggling to stay in business. This new tax burden, direct or hidden, would seriously jeopardize the businesses of many of our members resulting in the loss of jobs.

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February 24, 2010

The Honorable Dan Kristiansen  
Minority Caucus Chair  
Washington State House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600



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Suite 190  
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Ph: (503) 227-0234  
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Dear Mr. Kristiansen:

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February 24, 2010

The Honorable Kelli Linville  
Chair, Ways and Means Committee  
Washington State House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600



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February 24, 2010

The Honorable Dawn Morrell  
Majority Caucus Chair  
Washington State House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600



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The Honorable Sharon Tomiko Santos  
Majority Whip  
Washington State House of Representatives  
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Most agricultural activity in Washington occurs outside the central Puget Sound area. While proponents say that cleaning up stormwater should be everyone's number one priority, our farmers will be forced to pay up, but see very little direct benefit. Add to that the fact that this proposed \$224 million MTCA increase is really a general fund bailout masquerading as environmental action and it makes our members very upset and rightfully concerned about their futures.

This new tax will significantly increase prices for products our farmers need and must use, it is especially damaging during these trying economic times. Washington's farms are already struggling to make ends meet. Now is not the time to drive up prices and destroy jobs. Please vote No on SHB 3181 and SB 6851.

Thank you,

John Evans, 2009/2010 President PNWGFA Board of Directors  
Evans Grain, Feed & Seed Company

**PNWGFA Board of Directors:**

Dain Lauderback, The Scouler Company - 1st Vice President  
Sam White, Pacific Northwest Farmers Cooperative - 2nd Vice Pres.  
Kevin Whitehall, Central WA Grain Growers - Immediate Past Pres.  
Steve Yorke, United Harvest, LLC - Treasurer

Bud Riedner, Kalama Export Company  
Jeff Kaser, Mid Columbia Producers  
Dave Gordon, Northwest Grain Growers  
Dan Bahr, Pendleton Flour Mills, LLC

February 24, 2010

The Honorable David Taylor  
Minority Floor Leader  
Washington State House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600



200 SW Market St.,  
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Portland, OR 97201  
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Fax: (503) 227-0059  
www.pnwgfa.org  
pnwgfa@pnwgfa.org

**Re: Opposition to SHB 3181 and SB 6851**

Dear Mr. Taylor:

On behalf of the 91 member companies of the Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed Association, we are writing to strongly urge you to oppose two measures - SHB 3181 and SB 6851. These bills would directly impose a tax that will bring higher prices for our fertilizers and pesticides and create a hidden tax that will cause higher costs for farm equipment diesel and higher shipping rates to get our commodities to market. Given our current economic climate, our members are already struggling to stay in business. This new tax burden, direct or hidden, would seriously jeopardize the businesses of many of our members resulting in the loss of jobs.

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This new tax will significantly increase prices for products our farmers need and must use, it is especially damaging during these trying economic times. Washington's farms are already struggling to make ends meet. Now is not the time to drive up prices and destroy jobs. Please vote No on SHB 3181 and SB 6851.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Evans".

John Evans, 2009/2010 President PNWGFA Board of Directors  
Evans Grain, Feed & Seed Company

**PNWGFA Board of Directors:**

Dain Lauderback, The Scouler Company - 1st Vice President  
Sam White, Pacific Northwest Farmers Cooperative - 2nd Vice Pres.  
Kevin Whitehall, Central WA Grain Growers - Immediate Past Pres.  
Steve Yorke, United Harvest, LLC - Treasurer

Bud Riedner, Kalama Export Company  
Jeff Kaser, Mid Columbia Producers  
Dave Gordon, Northwest Grain Growers  
Dan Bahr, Pendleton Flour Mills, LLC

February 24, 2010

The Honorable Lisa Brown  
Majority Leader  
Washington State Senate  
P.O. Box 40403  
Olympia, WA 98504-0403



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pnwgfa@pnwgfa.org

**Re: Opposition to SHB 3181 and SB 6851**

Dear Senator Brown:

On behalf of the 91 member companies of the Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed Association, we are writing to strongly urge you to oppose two measures - SHB 3181 and SB 6851. These bills would directly impose a tax that will bring higher prices for our fertilizers and pesticides and create a hidden tax that will cause higher costs for farm equipment diesel and higher shipping rates to get our commodities to market. Given our current economic climate, our members are already struggling to stay in business. This new tax burden, direct or hidden, would seriously jeopardize the businesses of many of our members resulting in the loss of jobs.

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Thank you,

John Evans, 2009/2010 President PNWGFA Board of Directors  
Evans Grain, Feed & Seed Company

**PNWGFA Board of Directors:**

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Sam White, Pacific Northwest Farmers Cooperative - 2nd Vice Pres.  
Kevin Whitehall, Central WA Grain Growers - Immediate Past Pres.  
Steve Yorke, United Harvest, LLC - Treasurer

Bud Riedner, Kalama Export Company  
Jeff Kaser, Mid Columbia Producers  
Dave Gordon, Northwest Grain Growers  
Dan Bahr, Pendleton Flour Mills, LLC

February 24, 2010

The Honorable Tracey Eide  
Majority Floor Leader  
Washington State Senate  
P.O. Box 40430  
Olympia, WA 98504-0430



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Fax: (503) 227-0059  
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pnwgfa@pnwgfa.org

**Re: Opposition to SHB 3181 and SB 6851**

Dear Senator Eide:

On behalf of the 91 member companies of the Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed Association, we are writing to strongly urge you to oppose two measures - SHB 3181 and SB 6851. These bills would directly impose a tax that will bring higher prices for our fertilizers and pesticides and create a hidden tax that will cause higher costs for farm equipment diesel and higher shipping rates to get our commodities to market. Given our current economic climate, our members are already struggling to stay in business. This new tax burden, direct or hidden, would seriously jeopardize the businesses of many of our members resulting in the loss of jobs.

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Thank you,

John Evans, 2009/2010 President PNWGFA Board of Directors  
Evans Grain, Feed & Seed Company

**PNWGFA Board of Directors:**

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Sam White, Pacific Northwest Farmers Cooperative - 2nd Vice Pres.  
Kevin Whitehall, Central WA Grain Growers - Immediate Past Pres.  
Steve Yorke, United Harvest, LLC - Treasurer

Bud Riedner, Kalama Export Company  
Jeff Kaser, Mid Columbia Producers  
Dave Gordon, Northwest Grain Growers  
Dan Bahr, Pendleton Flour Mills, LLC

February 24, 2010

The Honorable Mike Hewitt  
Minority Leader  
Washington State Senate  
P.O. Box 40416  
Olympia, WA 98504-0416



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www.pnwgfa.org  
pnwgfa@pnwgfa.org

**Re: Opposition to SHB 3181 and SB 6851**

Dear Senator Hewitt:

On behalf of the 91 member companies of the Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed Association, we are writing to strongly urge you to oppose two measures - SHB 3181 and SB 6851. These bills would directly impose a tax that will bring higher prices for our fertilizers and pesticides and create a hidden tax that will cause higher costs for farm equipment diesel and higher shipping rates to get our commodities to market. Given our current economic climate, our members are already struggling to stay in business. This new tax burden, direct or hidden, would seriously jeopardize the businesses of many of our members resulting in the loss of jobs.

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Thank you,

John Evans, 2009/2010 President PNWGFA Board of Directors  
Evans Grain, Feed & Seed Company

**PNWGFA Board of Directors:**

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Sam White, Pacific Northwest Farmers Cooperative - 2nd Vice Pres.  
Kevin Whitehall, Central WA Grain Growers - Immediate Past Pres.  
Steve Yorke, United Harvest, LLC - Treasurer

Bud Riedner, Kalama Export Company  
Jeff Kaser, Mid Columbia Producers  
Dave Gordon, Northwest Grain Growers  
Dan Bahr, Pendleton Flour Mills, LLC

February 24, 2010

The Honorable Jim Honeyford  
Deputy Minority Floor Leader  
Washington State Senate  
P.O. Box 40415  
Olympia, WA 98504-0415



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pnwgfa@pnwgfa.org

**Re: Opposition to SHB 3181 and SB 6851**

Dear Senator Honeyford:

On behalf of the 91 member companies of the Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed Association, we are writing to strongly urge you to oppose two measures - SHB 3181 and SB 6851. These bills would directly impose a tax that will bring higher prices for our fertilizers and pesticides and create a hidden tax that will cause higher costs for farm equipment diesel and higher shipping rates to get our commodities to market. Given our current economic climate, our members are already struggling to stay in business. This new tax burden, direct or hidden, would seriously jeopardize the businesses of many of our members resulting in the loss of jobs.

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Thank you,

John Evans, 2009/2010 President PNWGFA Board of Directors  
Evans Grain, Feed & Seed Company

**PNWGFA Board of Directors:**

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Sam White, Pacific Northwest Farmers Cooperative - 2nd Vice Pres.  
Kevin Whitehall, Central WA Grain Growers - Immediate Past Pres.  
Steve Yorke, United Harvest, LLC - Treasurer

Bud Riedner, Kalama Export Company  
Jeff Kaser, Mid Columbia Producers  
Dave Gordon, Northwest Grain Growers  
Dan Bahr, Pendleton Flour Mills, LLC

February 24, 2010

The Honorable Chris Marr  
Majority Whip  
Washington State Senate  
P.O. Box 40406  
Olympia, WA 98504-0406



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pnwgfa@pnwgfa.org

**Re: Opposition to SHB 3181 and SB 6851**

Dear Senator Marr:

On behalf of the 91 member companies of the Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed Association, we are writing to strongly urge you to oppose two measures - SHB 3181 and SB 6851. These bills would directly impose a tax that will bring higher prices for our fertilizers and pesticides and create a hidden tax that will cause higher costs for farm equipment diesel and higher shipping rates to get our commodities to market. Given our current economic climate, our members are already struggling to stay in business. This new tax burden, direct or hidden, would seriously jeopardize the businesses of many of our members resulting in the loss of jobs.

Proponents of these measures talk about the desperate need for funding stormwater clean-up and that may be a laudable goal. However, stormwater run-off problems are the direct result of impervious surfaces. Our farmlands, because they are not covered by impervious surfaces, are natural stormwater filters. Farms do not contribute at all to this problem, but they will certainly be hit hard by the costs associated with this proposed "solution". There is no defensible nexus between taxing farms to deal with pavement-caused issues.

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Thank you,

John Evans, 2009/2010 President PNWGFA Board of Directors  
Evans Grain, Feed & Seed Company

**PNWGFA Board of Directors:**

Dain Lauderback, The Scouler Company - 1st Vice President  
Sam White, Pacific Northwest Farmers Cooperative - 2nd Vice Pres.  
Kevin Whitehall, Central WA Grain Growers - Immediate Past Pres.  
Steve Yorke, United Harvest, LLC - Treasurer

Bud Riedner, Kalama Export Company  
Jeff Kaser, Mid Columbia Producers  
Dave Gordon, Northwest Grain Growers  
Dan Bahr, Pendleton Flour Mills, LLC

February 24, 2010

The Honorable Ed Murray  
Majority Caucus Chair  
Washington State Senate  
P.O. Box 40443  
Olympia, WA 98504-0443



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pnwgfa@pnwgfa.org

**Re: Opposition to SHB 3181 and SB 6851**

Dear Senator Murray:

On behalf of the 91 member companies of the Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed Association, we are writing to strongly urge you to oppose two measures - SHB 3181 and SB 6851. These bills would directly impose a tax that will bring higher prices for our fertilizers and pesticides and create a hidden tax that will cause higher costs for farm equipment diesel and higher shipping rates to get our commodities to market. Given our current economic climate, our members are already struggling to stay in business. This new tax burden, direct or hidden, would seriously jeopardize the businesses of many of our members resulting in the loss of jobs.

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Thank you,

John Evans, 2009/2010 President PNWGFA Board of Directors  
Evans Grain, Feed & Seed Company

**PNWGFA Board of Directors:**

Dain Lauderback, The Scouler Company - 1st Vice President  
Sam White, Pacific Northwest Farmers Cooperative - 2nd Vice Pres.  
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Bud Riedner, Kalama Export Company  
Jeff Kaser, Mid Columbia Producers  
Dave Gordon, Northwest Grain Growers  
Dan Bahr, Pendleton Flour Mills, LLC

February 24, 2010

The Honorable Linda Evans Parlette  
Minority Caucus Chair  
Washington State Senate  
P.O. Box 40412  
Olympia, WA 98504-0412



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**Re: Opposition to SHB 3181 and SB 6851**

Dear Senator Parlette:

On behalf of the 91 member companies of the Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed Association, we are writing to strongly urge you to oppose two measures - SHB 3181 and SB 6851. These bills would directly impose a tax that will bring higher prices for our fertilizers and pesticides and create a hidden tax that will cause higher costs for farm equipment diesel and higher shipping rates to get our commodities to market. Given our current economic climate, our members are already struggling to stay in business. This new tax burden, direct or hidden, would seriously jeopardize the businesses of many of our members resulting in the loss of jobs.

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Thank you,

John Evans, 2009/2010 President PNWGFA Board of Directors  
Evans Grain, Feed & Seed Company

**PNWGFA Board of Directors:**

Dain Lauderback, The Scouler Company - 1st Vice President  
Sam White, Pacific Northwest Farmers Cooperative - 2nd Vice Pres.  
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Steve Yorke, United Harvest, LLC - Treasurer

Bud Riedner, Kalama Export Company  
Jeff Kaser, Mid Columbia Producers  
Dave Gordon, Northwest Grain Growers  
Dan Bahr, Pendleton Flour Mills, LLC

February 24, 2010

The Honorable Margarita Prentice  
Chair, Ways and Means Committee  
Washington State Senate  
P.O. Box 40411  
Olympia, WA 98504-0411



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**Re: Opposition to SHB 3181 and SB 6851**

Dear Senator Prentice:

On behalf of the 91 member companies of the Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed Association, we are writing to strongly urge you to oppose two measures - SHB 3181 and SB 6851. These bills would directly impose a tax that will bring higher prices for our fertilizers and pesticides and create a hidden tax that will cause higher costs for farm equipment diesel and higher shipping rates to get our commodities to market. Given our current economic climate, our members are already struggling to stay in business. This new tax burden, direct or hidden, would seriously jeopardize the businesses of many of our members resulting in the loss of jobs.

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Thank you,

John Evans, 2009/2010 President PNWGFA Board of Directors  
Evans Grain, Feed & Seed Company

**PNWGFA Board of Directors:**

Dain Lauderback, The Scouler Company - 1st Vice President  
Sam White, Pacific Northwest Farmers Cooperative - 2nd Vice Pres.  
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Bud Riedner, Kalama Export Company  
Jeff Kaser, Mid Columbia Producers  
Dave Gordon, Northwest Grain Growers  
Dan Bahr, Pendleton Flour Mills, LLC

February 24, 2010

The Honorable Mark Schoesler  
Minority Floor Leader  
Washington State Senate  
P.O. Box 40409  
Olympia, WA 98504-0409



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pnwgfa@pnwgfa.org

**Re: Opposition to SHB 3181 and SB 6851**

Dear Senator Schoesler:

On behalf of the 91 member companies of the Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed Association, we are writing to strongly urge you to oppose two measures - SHB 3181 and SB 6851. These bills would directly impose a tax that will bring higher prices for our fertilizers and pesticides and create a hidden tax that will cause higher costs for farm equipment diesel and higher shipping rates to get our commodities to market. Given our current economic climate, our members are already struggling to stay in business. This new tax burden, direct or hidden, would seriously jeopardize the businesses of many of our members resulting in the loss of jobs.

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Thank you,

John Evans, 2009/2010 President PNWGFA Board of Directors  
Evans Grain, Feed & Seed Company

**PNWGFA Board of Directors:**

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