

Oppose 1098

At its June meeting, the board of directors of the Washington Farm Bureau voted to oppose Initiative 1098. In accordance with Washington Farm Bureau Policy 223 relating to Tax Reform which says, "We oppose a state income tax," members are encouraged to vote NO on I-1098 this fall.

I-1098 would establish an income tax on "adjusted gross income" above \$200,000 for individuals and \$400,000 for married couples or domestic partners filing jointly. It would also reduce the limit on the state's portion of property taxes by 20 percent, and increase the business and occupation tax credit to \$4,800.

Although the income threshold may not be met by many Farm Bureau members at this time, it is likely that once an income tax is in place the threshold would be lowered to include most, if not all, incomes.

The reduction in property taxes applies only to the state portion of the tax resulting in a net reduction in property taxes overall in the range of 4-5 percent. Agriculture is currently not subject to the B&O tax so the increased credit would not be seen by farmers.

All reports indicate that Initiative 1098 will qualify for the ballot. For more information about the damage this measure would wreak on small family farms and other businesses, visit: <http://www.defeat1098.com>.