

Senator Chris Edwards, Chair
Sen. Alan Olsen
Sen. Michael Dembrow
Sen. Floyd Prozanski
Sen. Doug Whitsett

Feb. 2, 2016

SB 1574 should not leave committee

This bill should not pass. It makes claims that are unfounded and fails to quantify the costs to taxpayers. It takes money from everyone and redistribute it to "favored" groups.

A gentleman giving testimony last night called the citizens of Oregon "takers" when it comes to global warming. On the contrary, we have been "givers" and have now reached the point where failure to address the unequal burden of the "green energy" movement that this state is assuming will cause irreparable damage to Oregon. This bill will result in adding significantly to that damage.

Oregon has 1.24% of the population of the United States, but we produce only 0.68% of the CO2 emissions.

There are only 7 state which have CO2 emissions per capita in single digits. Oregon is one of them. In spite of that, our cost of electricity over all sectors as reported by the US Energy Information Administration is the lowest among the seven at 8.95 cents per kilowatthour. This is primarily due to the dam generated electricity that we are able to use. The other six states have average costs per kilowatthour as reported in November, 2015 by the US Energy Information Administration as running between 12.13 and 16.86 cents per kilowatthour.

The green energy lobby focuses on CO2 pollution, but fails to recognize or account for the fact that wind and solar, along with all source s of energy have consequences and costs. Placing a wind or solar development in a State damages resources. This information may be useful to you:

1. Depending upon the date of the data, Oregon produces between 99.2% and 99.8% renewable energy
2. Energy production totals for the state equal 458.8 Trillion Btu's
3. Citizens of the state have a total consumption of 253.7 million Btu per capita by all end users per 2013 data.
4. We produce not only the energy required for our own citizens, but an excess of renewable energy which is sent to other states.
5. California obtains 25% of their renewable energy from other states. We are one of the primary sources for that energy.
6. Nearly ¾ of the wind energy generated in Oregon goes to other states.
7. Idaho recently lowered the length of it's solar contracts to two years. There were 15 planned solar projects planned for Idaho which are now going to be built in Oregon. Oregon will get no credit for these developments toward meeting our renewable energy requirements, but will assume the damages to our natural resources due to the developments.
8. Idaho Power just signed two contracts for wind energy. They will be paying \$62.49 per megawatt hr. for solar power, \$22.79 per megawatt hour for coal generated electricity. The cost being charged for Natural Gas is \$33.57 per kilowatt hour. Requirements for Oregon to develop and/or purchase additional renewable energy will increase the costs of energy to consumers in the state.

This program will receive funding from the General Fund, taking that money away from other programs, and will require new staffing to implement it. The true impact of the bill is as follows:

Under the language of this bill, the electricity users would have to pay for the carbon in the energy generated in another state, but moved into Oregon. Oregon is already paying a huge price due to the environmental, habitat and human impacts that the developments selling their energy out of state are creating.

Oregon can not and should not more responsibility for the carbon pollution created by other states. We are already doing a great deal to compensate for others failure to take action.

Why is this bill listed as an emergency? It will take longer than 90 days to implement it and democracy demands that the people have the opportunity to vote on bills when the legislature fails to pass good laws or ones supported by the people they are supposed to represent.

I urge you to vote against this bill.

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