



February 5, 2018

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 4001 – Cap and Trade Proposal

Chair Helm, and members of the committee:

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association ("OCA") is the voice of Oregon's cattle industry. We represent nearly 2,000 Oregon ranchers and their families. We aim to improve and strengthen Oregon's beef industry while promoting environmentally sound and socially conscious economic practices. Oregon has over 13,000 cattle producers, using 57% of state agricultural lands and comprising 14% of Oregon's total agricultural sector. Our ranchers are devoted stewards of the private and public lands they manage throughout our state. We are committed to natural resource sustainability and strive to be part of the solution to environmental issues in Oregon.

HB 4001 puts an unnecessary burden on ranchers. Although the bill does not directly regulate ranches themselves it could significantly drive up the input costs of cattle producers, particularly those associated with fuel, feed, fertilizer, and building supplies.

The bill puts Oregon's ranchers at a competitive disadvantage against cattle producers in neighboring states and outside the country. With the majority of our beef products leaving Oregon its important that ranchers are able to stay competitive in the ever-changing beef market. Further, the bill is especially harmful to young and beginning ranchers whose businesses must become profitable within the first few years of operation. Increasing input costs only places another hurdle in the way of our young ranchers who want to start their own businesses.

The California-like offsetting and incentive programs would require ranchers to devote precious time and resources to a cumbersome application process. This would be a serious burden on ranches that are primarily small-scale family owned and operated businesses. Most ranches lack the sophistication and resources required to navigate and apply for these incentives.

In an already difficult industry, the bill places a proportionally unfair burden on rural ranching families and communities. With greater distances to travel on a daily basis, and greater transportation costs across the board, the bill places an unfair burden on those living, working, and owning businesses in rural areas of Oregon.

OCA appreciates the opportunity to speak with you on this important topic. Please recognize our members' and our industry's commitment to environmental stewardship and the costs we already bear in carrying out Oregon's conservation policy goals. Please oppose HB 4001.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome Rosa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jerome Rosa, Executive Director