

Dear Oregon lawmakers,

I co-own a small grass-fed beef farm in Yamhill county. I do support a comprehensive "cap and trade" program, and HB4001 and SB1507 because I think Oregon needs to do more to be proactive about our energy usage.

It's clear that our Federal government is not willing to look toward the future and step up with legislation to reduce global greenhouse emissions. So it's up to the states to be in the vanguard of change.

Only by planning for future generations can our country actually be "great" - otherwise, we are merely stealing from our kids and grand kids.

Agriculture can and should be part of a future that turns the tide on climate change through carbon sequestration and storage.

We can and should use our natural resources to lead the way toward a greener future.

We can and should utilize and encourage farming practices that reduce emissions.

While there may be some increased costs for fuel, etc, farmers will be able to benefit by grant funds (for certain practices), and/or by selling credits generated by offset practices.

We've engaged in conservation practices (with cost-sharing from the state and federal government) on our farm for years, and have seen the benefits, including greater water retention, habitat restoration, etc. I believe that farmers can work effectively with our state government officials to benefit from practices that are not only the right thing, but are also the smart thing to do.

Please vote 'YES' on HB 4001 and SB 1507.

Sincerely,

Valerie Blaha
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