



JAY BOZIEVICH

Lane County Commissioner
West Lane District
jay.bozievich@co.lane.or.us

Testimony on HB 4001 & SB 1507 before a joint session of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and the House Committee on Energy and Environment

Testimony of Jay Bozievich, Chair
Lane County Commissioner
February 7, 2018

Chair Dembrow, Chair Helm and members of the Committees, My name is Jay Bozievich, current Chair of the Lane County Board of Commissioners and I am here to testify on behalf of the Board in opposition of moving this bill forward in this short legislative session.

Creating a system to place a cap on greenhouse gas emissions, setting up a trading system for allowances and reinvestment of the proceeds of auctioning those allowances is too complex and far reaching to be considered during a short legislative session. The unintended consequences have not been fully analyzed. There is no analysis of these bills available to the public at this time, including both fiscal and revenue impact statements.

My greatest concerns will probably not even be included in the fiscal impact analysis and that is the impact on local government. Local governments like Lane County purchase energy to heat our buildings and run our fleet. That energy will become more costly under this legislation. Local governments purchase asphalt, concrete and aggregate to construct, maintain and restore our critical transportation infrastructure. All of these products are highly carbon intensive and would see large cost increases under such a plan just as counties are struggling to use the new revenues from HB 2017 to harden our transportation system against the impending Cascadia subduction zone earthquake.

The cost increases these bills would create for local governments will only exacerbate the crisis many local governments like Lane County have been experiencing due to changes in the Federal Forest policies and the end of Secure Rural Schools Act payments and the burden of the unfunded actuarial liability of the Oregon Public Employee Retirement System. Adding costs to the local governments already in fiscal crisis means balancing budgets by decreasing services for our citizens. These bills would place an unfunded mandate onto local governments.



JAY BOZIEVICH

Lane County Commissioner
West Lane District
jay.bozievich@co.lane.or.us

The pass through cost of the allowances to the public is also a concern for those struggling to obtain or remain in housing. Energy cost and the hidden cost of energy in food and other consumer items will only add to the number of Oregon's households that are housing burdened.

In addition, there is an unnecessary emergency clause placed on both bills suppressing the public's right to citizen initiative referral.

Current Oregon land use law requires comprehensive plans for cities and counties to minimize vehicle miles travelled through promoting active transportation, mass transit and walkable neighborhoods. Two years ago this body passed the Oregon Clean Fuels Program that addresses the carbon footprint of fuel for the transportation sector. In 2007, Oregon's Renewable Portfolio Standard was put in place and recently amended in 2016 to require that 50% of Oregon's electricity be supplied by renewable, low carbon footprint, sources by 2040.

There are already multiple state programs that are working at controlling and reducing greenhouse gas emissions so this bill should not be considered an emergency and should not be enacted in the foreshortened process of an even numbered year 35-day legislative session.

Please heed my words and delay action on these bills and remove the emergency clauses so that a more deliberate process with full public input opportunities as well as time for a complete analysis of the consequences of this program.

Thank you for time and consideration.