



Friday, February 09, 2018

SB1507

HB4001

As an owner of Tradewinds Transportation we would like to express great concern in regards to two proposed bills, SB1507 and HB4001. Oregon is already one of the lowest greenhouse gas emitters in the country. In fact, in despite a growing population in the last 18 years our states greenhouse gas emissions have DECLINED by 13%. Not only do statistics prove the bills unnecessary, Oregon already has a Low Carbon standard in place. It is not necessary to have two programs with the same purpose. Additionally, Oregon has THE HIGHEST operating taxes IN THE NATION, another tax in addition to the 2017 Transportation Package will have a detrimental impact on my business and the trucking industry. My competitors are based nationally, being a trucking carrier based in Oregon, with the highest operating taxes in the nation, means that any other carrier based outside of Oregon, has a competitive advantage; a lower operating cost. A lower operating cost directly relates to the rate I have to charge for my product ie:freight transportation service. Lower operating costs mean lower rates. I cannot simply pass on the cost because transportation customers are looking for the lowest freight rate to move their goods and I cannot compete because every other state in the nation has a lower operating cost. Oregon has not provided any financial incentive to help the trucking industry move into 2007 or newer vehicles. Other states such as Washington and California have. With over 75% of the tons of freight moved in Oregon by the trucking industry I would like to think that our industry is very important to the Oregon economy. Unfortunately, trucking has taken many hits in this state, increased taxes on benefits for my employees, health insurance taxes, wage increases, City of Portland tax, and the 2017 Transportation Package that will add 53% increases over the next few years. Unlike other Oregon businesses we are not subject to just some tax increases Oregon passes, appears we are the target of ALL Oregon's tax increases. If we continue at this rate we will have to relocate to a state where businesses are encouraged to operate, thrive and grow. I hope that is not what it takes for our State Representative to determine that we were a huge benefit to Oregon's economy.

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