

HB 4001 Testimony

February 7, 2018

My name is Becky Crockett.

Thank you for the honor of speaking with you today on HB4001.

I own several hundred acres of agricultural and forest lands southern Curry County. From my hill I look across the vast burn of the Chetco Fire only ½ miles away on Mt. Emily. I marvel at the devastation enabled by our Federal Forest policies. How could we cause so much more damage than the Japanese intended when my Grandmother watched as they dropped the bombs on Mt. Emily near the end of WWII?

Something is wrong when resource policies are enacted by people who fail to listen to those who spend time on the land. This proposed Cap and Trade legislation is another example of good intentions by wonderful people removed from the land. It will result in unfair and unbalanced economic hardships for those of us who live our lives promoting and enacting sustainable practices.

This past week I personally just finished planting several hundred coastal redwood trees along my creeks, ravines and wetlands. Tomorrow I have 23,000 Douglas fir seedlings arriving to plant on my forestland. It is an effort to eliminate the aggressive tanoak infestation, which spreads the sudden oak death fungus, which is popping up in mass across thousands of acres of the unmanaged federal owned Chetco burn area.

I also built and operate several commercial greenhouses full of wasabi. Wasabi is one of the most difficult plants to grow in the world. After risking a personal investment of over ½ million dollars in Curry County we are finding that it thrives under the unique climate conditions. I am now the largest wasabi producer in the U.S. and ship product out weekly. I know first hand that a proposed \$.16 cent increase in a gallon of gas will likely eliminate my product from being available as it currently is at the 24 New Seasons Markets in Portland, Seattle and San Francisco. Curry County is 350 miles from Portland and 350 miles from San Francisco with no logical transportation-shipping hub in-between. I currently pay a premium for everything I buy to operate my business and for every package of product I ship out for sale.

As a rural farmer, I can grow amazing produce that urban consumers will pay a premium to eat. I can effectively operate within the constraints of sustainability. The hardship I face is the cost of transporting my product from my rural farm to urban markets.

I love New Seasons. In our negotiations it became clear that they would struggle to make money on my product due to transportation costs. But they believe in

promoting my business. At \$11.00 for the consumer to buy wasabi at New Seasons, I seriously doubt there is room to increase the cost of the product or absorb an additional gas tax hike. This is just one example of the detrimental effect the proposal will have only to gain negligible benefit towards reducing global greenhouse emissions.

I was born and raised in Curry County where my family has managed farm and forest lands for over 100 years. I went to college at OSU and then worked and raised my two sons in the Portland metro area for 25 years. I know first hand how out-of-touch the majority of Oregonians are with the difficulties, constraints and challenges faced by rural businesses. For us, this Cap and Trade legislation is another, respectfully unintended slap in the face by urban Oregonians.

We sequester the carbon from all the dirty cars in our forests; we grow the food people want to eat in a sustainable manner; and we are the reason Oregon has a menial .14% global greenhouse emission. Yet, we will be penalized the most economically through a Billion dollar carbon tax.

There has got to be a better way to address this important issue ----. Rather than literally eliminating more rural businesses in an attempt to achieve a greenhouse goal that is so small that it is statistically within the margin of error and could just as correctly be stated as -.14%. Lets lift up the people who are sequestering the carbon ----not penalize them the most economically through this Billion dollar carbon tax.

Thank you,

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