

From: [REDACTED]
To: [SENHR Exhibits](#); [Rep Wilde](#); [Sen Beyer](#)
Subject: LC19
Date: Monday, January 13, 2020 5:47:11 PM

To whom it may concern:

From Austin Sayer,
grass seed farmer,
Brownsville, OR

I am writing this letter today to ask you NOT to support the proposed legislation LC19, also known as Cap and Trade.

Under LC19 the cost of propane will increase significantly. On my farm, we have to use propane to power our forklifts in our grass seed warehouse as well as heating my home. This means significantly more out of pocket expense for my personally as well as for my business. Further, there is a large portion of the population of many rural Oregon towns, such as Brownsville and Sweet Home that cannot afford "normal" housing and are forced to do the best they can scraping by month to month living in an RV with the ONLY source of heat coming from propane fired forced air heaters. Many of these folks can't afford to feed and clothe their children on a regular basis, I know because my wife teaches these kids and we have made sure they get clothes, shoes, and sometimes food for long school breaks. If these people are forced to pay even just a few cents more for heat, they will be forced into the cold, literally.

LC19 will jeopardize jobs in rural Oregon. This is a fact that is acknowledged within the bill. I have been doing the same job my entire life of 42 years. Many other people I know have as well. There is no amount of "retraining" available that could possibly make our lives whole again. I attended Sweet Home school district in the 1990's when the spotted owl incident caused the timber industry to dramatically downsize and witnessed firsthand some of the retraining people were forced to do then, some of the people who retrained have done fine, others are still lost without the job that defined who they were as a person.

There will be an increased cost of fuel statewide in spite of what is written in LC19 due to how fuel is distributed in Oregon. Struggling rural families who have any kind of commute to work (basically all rural families have a significant commute) will be unable to make ends meet with any increase in their monthly budget. As proposed, this increases fuel costs by \$0.22 per gallon in the first year alone, which would cost a family that drives only 830 miles a month (a very small number for most rural residents) an extra \$7.30 each month, or about \$90 per year. People who live in rural areas don't have the luxury of decreasing the miles they drive by taking public transportation. The man who currently runs my seed warehouse would see an increase of at least \$3.00 per week for fuel just to commute to work in the first year alone.

My farm will see an increased annual cost of over \$3000.

The people hardest hit by this will not be able to relocate to the large cities because they will not be able to afford the moving costs, but even if they could, where would they find housing with the housing shortage crisis that our state is currently facing? Perhaps they could become a faceless body in one of the prolific homeless encampments in Portland, Salem or Eugene if

they can figure out how to get there.

Where is all this money going to go? How will taxing people who can't afford decent housing, more fuel efficient vehicles, who can't reduce their driving miles due to proximity help the "climate crisis"? The short answer is: it WONT!

I recently read that the prediction is an overall increase in the economy (long term) for Oregon if this passes. As economies go, I am sure this is true. Given enough time, the overall economy of Oregon will recover because the loss that rural Oregon is going to experience from LC19 will be made up for in the large cities leaving those of us in rural areas reeling once again. While I will not argue one way or the other that we must DO something where climate change is concerned, we can't afford to BUY our way out of this. Perhaps the large polluters can take a page out of my personal playbook; I have reduced the amount of fuel used on my farm by at least 20% in the last 20 years. When I first returned to our farm after college, we were using over 9000 gallons of off road diesel annually, last year we used less than 7000 gallons, and several pieces of machinery that used gas have been replaced with machines that use off road diesel. I fully intend to continue this reduction as much as is possible not because you say I should, but because it is the right thing to do. In order to accomplish this, I need every resource available to buy more efficient equipment. I purchased a new "speed disk" this winter that will help with this goal but it comes with an \$80,000 price tag to work up about 500 acres of ground each year quickly and minimally. When I have to replace a tractor, it will come with a cost over \$200,000 and it will only operate about 60 days each year maximum.

Rural Oregon needs all of the monetary resources we have in order to continue providing the food, fiber, and other goods used by the rest of the state, the nation, and the world that we produce each year. LC 19 will only prevent us from doing our jobs and put a major damper on industries like agriculture that is already doing its part to sequester far more carbon than it produces while we are also doing everything we can afford to further reduce our carbon pollution footprint.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Austin Sayer
Brownsville, Oregon