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Senate Interim Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, Senator Alan Olsen, Representative Christina Drazan, Senator Betsy Johnson, and Representative Tiffany Mitchell:

Greetings,

I am a lifelong resident of Oregon, and have deep roots here. My ancestors homesteaded in Oregon after immigrating from Finland in the late 1800's. My family has maintained possession of our property in Clatsop County since that time. We have taken great care in managing the property as a working timber farm. Many years ago, my grandfather was awarded "Clatsop County Tree Farmer of the Year." This was such an incredible honor for him. We take pride in our state. We are teaching our current generation to be good stewards of the land and natural resources, and are working to take steps to make sure Oregon as we know it remains such a beautiful place for future generations.

We have many generations of our family involved in the care and maintenance of this property, and the surrounding Clatsop State Forest, which is an absolute treasure. We make many trips through the land where we ensure it remains clean and pristine by gathering any litter, target shooting debris, or anything else that would be a concern for our environment.

Two of my younger cousins have attended Oregon State University, majoring in Forestry. Both are now working as foresters in Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington. We as a family know the importance of being good stewards of our natural resources, and the importance our natural resources play in keeping Oregon the place we know and love.

One of the most important factors in maintaining a healthy forest is the proper management of the forest, to prevent disease, wildfire and many other issues that can come from not managing it responsibly. Logging is crucial for the current and continued success of our working forests in Oregon.

I have worked in private industry and public service in Oregon for all of my working years. As career goals have progressed over the years, my family has moved and we have made our home in Clackamas County, in the Canby area. I am in the unique position to be a private landowner in Clatsop County, as well as a private landowner in Clackamas County. As a property owner in two counties, with significant interest in the future of our state, as a stakeholder and lifelong resident, it is critical that we “get it right” when we are implementing new laws and regulations that will affect quality of life, the economy (on a massive scale), transportation, and so much more! I am a consumer of electricity, gasoline, diesel fuel, propane, natural gas, wood, as well as many other things that rely on the energy and transportation infrastructure. LC 19 will have an effect on me personally, and professionally; both in my full-time job and our small family tree farm.

We as citizens in Oregon SHOULD have the opportunity to provide our feedback on any bill of such magnitude as LC 19. Since this bill will have impacts on every single thing, every single person does on a daily basis and has key components within this bill that will increase the costs of goods and services throughout Oregon and beyond, we the citizens should get to vote on this. Anything that will have lifelong impacts on every aspect of every Oregon citizens life, and as the proponents suggest, the life of every person in the world is not something that a couple hundred people sitting in Salem should get to make the decisions on. It is incomprehensible to try and figure out why the elected representative in our state are so resistant to letting the will of the people decide the fate of this bill.

The content and context of the 156 pages of this bill can be debated all day, every day into eternity as to whether or not the desired climate goals will be achieved. I have my personal opinions, which really don't matter, because I have been told by several people in the Capitol Building that “they know better than me, and if this isn't done now, within 10-15 years the effects of climate change will be irreversible.” Whether elected officials; dare I say “leaders” in Oregon know better than me or not, it is not their place to take away my ability to cast a vote in favor or opposition to such a bill. Just as the climate change proponents suggest evidence that their case is true and accurate, there is equally as much evidence that can be presented by the opposition suggesting that the oppositions case is true and accurate. There is no doubt that “climate changes.” The causation and contributing factors, and contradictions are so convoluted that there is absolutely no way anyone can call it “settled science.”

LC 19 is flawed and doesn't make sense. This bill is drafted in such a manner so as to intentionally cause average citizens to become confused and disoriented. Similar to the "Affordable Care Act" on the national scale. It rings true that lawmakers just "have to pass it now," so we can read it and figure out the details later." This is wrong. This is unethical. This is against all that are democracy is built upon.

LC 19 is not good for Oregon. It is not good for Oregonians. It is not good for our environment and will have zero effect on the climate of Oregon, the United States, or the World. There is no way that taxing businesses, that will then pass on the expense of those taxes to consumers in Oregon and abroad will cause the temperature of the earth to change. Sure, there are things we as citizens can do to effect positive changes to our local, regional, state and national environmental goals, but forcing this legislation down the throats of Oregonians is not one of those things.

Is there a legitimate reason the "emergency clause" is necessary for this bill?

This is not at all true: "This 2020 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2020 Act takes effect on its passage." It certainly isn't so immediate that you can't let the will of the voters of Oregon be heard by having the option of a referendum initiative.

I respectfully request that you be the voices of reason and affirmatively take any and all steps to eliminate this bill; or at the very least ensure that We the People have the opportunity to vote.

Thank you for your time and service.

Respectfully,

Travis Hill
Canby, Oregon