

From: ggce@aol.com
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Subject: We Oppose LC 19, It's bad Public Policy
Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 8:07:21 AM

Senator Dembrow and Colleagues,

We wish to express our strong opposition to "LC 19", the latest climate bill. As small forest owners and timber operators this bill as proposed will greatly increase our costs and make us less competitive. Undoubtedly "LC 19" as proposed will be harmful to our business as we compete in a global marketplace producing wood products.

Despite leadership comments to the contrary, exemptions for fuel used by rural agriculture and forestry are hollow promises. Taxes levied on fuel **will** flow down to us as the end user. The proponents of this legislation have yet to meaningfully engage rural resource producers to understand the supply, distribution and cost structure we operate under.

Oregon's natural resource producers grow and supply our citizen's sustainable and renewable food, fiber and shelter. Our crops are a major reason for Oregon's very low carbon emissions. In simple terms, how many trees did you plant this year? Personally we planted about 15,000. These trees will cleanse the air for many decades and one day be harvested providing clean, renewable building products. Rather than burden the valuable natural resources sector of the economy, you should be seeking to encourage the work we do improving Oregon's climate resiliency.

"LC 19" is vague, arbitrary and lacks transparency. There is no clear definition for role of the new DEQ board and the process to fund mysterious unidentified "climate fund beneficiaries" for legislators pet projects. Section 32 of proposed "LC 19" goes so far as to exempt the program participants from established public records laws! Exactly what is it you need to hide?

Cap and Trade for Oregon is a costly and overreaching concept. More about optics than substance, it will have little influence on global carbon emissions while weakening the state's economy. One thing is certain, it's another cash and power grab, treating our hard earned money as yours. Resulting increases in the cost of living will **harm all Oregonians**.

The latest "LC 19" proposal is very bad public policy, and we strongly oppose it.

Sincerely,
Gordon & Gail Culbertson
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