

# Roger A. Sabbadini, Ph.D.

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Date: January 15, 2020

TO: Shelly Raszka  
Senior Committee Assistant  
Senate Interim Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
**Via Email:** [Shelley.Raszka@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Shelley.Raszka@oregonlegislature.gov)

RE: An Open Letter to Oregon Lawmakers on Climate Change and the CEJB (formerly HB 2020 now LC19)

Dear Committee:

I am a resident of Bend's HD53 and S27 with family in Bend's HD54.

I urge you to support the Clean Energy Job Bill that may be up for consideration in this legislative session. I have read the original HB2020 and the draft of LC19. I urge you to keep LC19 in the spirit of HB2020 and pass a robust bill in the current session. For example, I have concerns about enacting the cap and invest initially in the metro areas like Portland with populations over 30,000 and then later phase in rural areas if this provision causes the bill to collapse. Please don't let identity politics prevent its adoption. We need to find common ground and a framework for a dialogue that breaks down artificial partisan barriers.

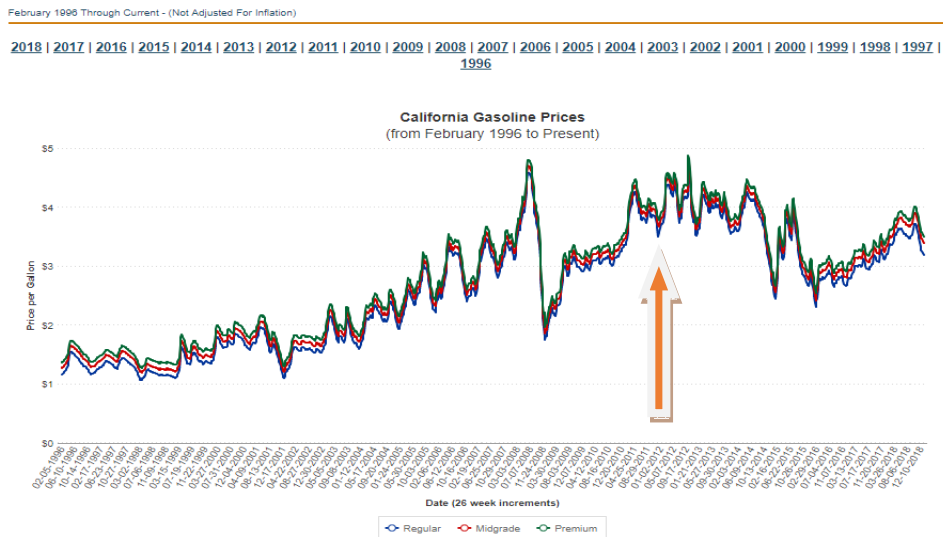
I have been struggling to understand why the issue of climate change (CC) has become part of our identity politics. I reject the unfounded opinion that CC skeptics are uneducated or uninformed about global warming and other impacts we humans have been making on our planet since the dawn of the industrial revolution. Most CC skeptics know about the vast amounts of evidence demonstrating our impact on climate air and water pollution, greenhouse warming and resultant sea level rise. Anglers like me know it when we see our fisheries in rapid decline. Fire fighters understand it when they are faced with longer fire seasons and more frequent and intense firestorms.

Climate change affects things we ALL hold dear such as the welfare of the family, a robust economy on which we all depend, the food we eat, the air we all breathe, our national security and the country we all love and the political stability of the world. We have failed to connect the dots between those concerns and CC. Additionally, nefarious political operatives work to disconnect the dots in advancing a political agenda that preserves their power base. Thus, CC should not be defined as a liberal, democratic, progressive issue. It is a human issue and an issue that affects all life on our precious planet.

In meeting with Representative **Jack Zika** and Senator **Tim Knopp** last February and more recently in December they expressed a concern about the effects of the bill on the local economy. In particular, he was worried that the transportation penalties might drive up the cost of gasoline and diesel on which his rural constituents depend when they drive long distances in working their

farms and ranches. I pointed out to him that the *California experience showed that gas prices have declined since the Cap-and-Trade legislation went into full-effect in 2012*. Please see the following graph that shows this decline. Look at the prices before and after the inserted **arrow**. This data does not imply that Cap-and-Trade lowered gas prices, as there are many other factors that have greater effect at the pump, including the capacity of refineries to process crude, OPEC and US policies governing oil production affecting supply/demand, etc.

### California Average Weekly Retail Gasoline Prices



(Source: [https://www.energy.ca.gov/almanac/transportation\\_data/gasoline/retail\\_gasoline\\_prices2.html](https://www.energy.ca.gov/almanac/transportation_data/gasoline/retail_gasoline_prices2.html) California Energy Commission)

Also, penalties for carbon pollution are not taxes. Economists generally agree that putting a price on carbon pollution is the most efficient method of transitioning to clean energy because it harnesses the market to encourage innovation. I believe that investing in clean energy will create jobs in Central Oregon to the benefit of our local economy. Jobs will be created locally rather than supporting outside fossil fuel companies.

Lower income Oregonians will benefit from these jobs and the support they will get for insulating their homes and gaining access to affordable, energy-efficient housing. Many economists argue that economically-disadvantaged folks will suffer disproportionately if climate change is not addressed.

Regardless of political affiliation, all of us want our children to be safe and to inherit a habitable planet and enjoy a strong economy. All of us love our nation and its public lands. Consequently, all of us should embrace clean energy solutions to global warming.

Sincerely,

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