

From: [Chris Wells](#)
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Cc: [Chris Wells](#); [Devon Wells](#)
Subject: Oppose Costly Cap-and-Trade Bill
Date: Thursday, January 16, 2020 11:06:48 AM

Senate Environment Committee,

I am a farmer in Oregon (Walter Wells & Sons, LLC Hood River) and I am concerned with the cap-and-trade bill. Every year it continues to be more and more difficult for farms to operate and even have a margin. The price of everything continues to go up other than for crops, in my case pears, apples, peaches, and cherries. Although the price of these crops remain stagnant, the price/cost of fertilizer, and fuel continue to rise whether that is due to corporate/industry increases or mandated by regulatory bodies. This is suffocating farming. We continue to lose competitive ground to other domestic markets as well as global markets.

Let me be very clear...I can't pass on the cost of rising production to the customer. Instead I just continue to lose more ground. Ironically I am the customer that receives a passed on cost increase. My cost continue to rise while there is no compensating increase in the price of my produce.

The proposed phase-in of fuels in the metro areas is not meaningful to all the rural and agricultural areas of Oregon. This will most likely increase the price of fuel across the state. On and off road fuels are both included in this bill and will once again impact family farms across Oregon. Please do not pass this bill that fuel distributors say is unworkable.

Natural Gas: Natural Gas is used to heat greenhouses and in crop processes such as potatoes and grains. Many users of Natural gas in the rural areas will see an increase in rates within the first year of the program.

Propane: Propane is used in many of the machines in agriculture including the frost protection and forklift equipment. Propane customers receive no rate relief in the cap-and-trade bill and will see a minimum of \$.16 per gallon increase in 2022. This bill will significantly increase cost for families located outside metropolitan areas, as propane is heavily used in these rural areas to heat homes and schools.

Farmers, ranchers, and loggers can't afford these policies when they are written without consideration of the differences between urban and rural impact areas.

I urge you as you enjoy food raised in rural areas and enjoy shelter and furniture from wood provided from rural areas (in relation to all the rural folks that make this happen) to please put more work into understanding the impact this causes the minority of population, but majority of regions (rural/farms/ag) in this state. Please do not confuse the idea that what works for metro does not always work for rural.

We have farmed in Oregon for 119 years now, and desire to continue. Our own legislative bodies are impacting this future.

Thank you for your consideration,

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