

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [SENR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony on LC19 - Cap and Trade Proposal  
**Date:** Thursday, January 16, 2020 5:01:56 PM

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Dear Members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

My wife and I are strongly opposed to LC19 and any other type of “cap and trade” measure and request that you reject LC19 without further action . We have been residents of Central Point, Oregon for 6-1/2 years. We’re retired, and although we’re able to live well on our income, we have serious concerns about the ever increasing level of taxation in this state – not only through direct taxes such as the income tax, but the indirect taxes created through legislation such as HB3427 and that might be created through the LC19 “cap and trade” proposal.

We realize that LC19 was carefully crafted so that the initial cost increases don’t present much of an impact to most citizens; however, we’re not blind to the fact that once this terrible proposal is implemented, our fuel and energy costs will increase dramatically as more onerous taxation and control measures are phased in over time. We certain that once this proposal is made law, it will be quickly amended so that it is even more restrictive than it is currently.

We’re very concerned about the impact this legislation will have on those who are already struggling to pay their bills, as well as on the health of Oregon’s economy in general. We’re not buying the promises of “50,000 green jobs,” or the claims of how beneficial this proposal will be for our economy. We see it only as a cash and power grab, as well as a massive wealth transfer from hard working Oregonians to politically favored industries and contractors. As the Legislature well knows, the ability to control CO2 emissions is the ability to control the economy, energy, land, people and resources. This equates to a massive and unacceptable expansion of government power that we will strongly resist.

Supporters of this proposal (and HB2020 before it) claim that it will force “polluters” to pay their “fair share,” but those “polluters” will merely pass their compliance costs onto Oregon consumers! Just as with HB2020, saddling Oregon businesses with these additional costs will make difficult or impossible for them to compete with similar business in states without crippling “cap and trade” programs.

We’re very disappointed and angry that the Oregon Legislature is continuing its quest to punish hardworking Oregonians with draconian cap and trade proposals. We thought it was made abundantly clear last June that there is serious opposition to cap and trade in this state. What proof is there that LC19 will do anything whatsoever to restore the climate to some arbitrary “optimum?” It’s been made clear by the state’s own climate researchers that the goals being set in LC19 will have essentially no impact on the climate. There are reports claiming that drought, reduced snowpack, increased wildfire and impacts to fisheries purportedly caused by climate change is costing Oregonian millions, but again there is no proof that the billions in costs Oregonians will incur due to LC19 will offset any of the costs allegedly related to “climate change.”

We’re sure the Legislature is aware that China is building more than 700 new coal-fired power plants

worldwide, and India is building hundreds more as well. These coal fired power plants will increase global CO2 emissions by BILLIONS of tons, far exceeding Oregon's overall contribution of 64 million tons. Oregon's emissions constitute 0.7% of US total, and 0.02% of the global total – that's miniscule! While we're not advocating the construction of new coal-fired power plants - what sense is there in punishing Oregonians for their miniscule contribution to global CO2 emissions while China and India's proposed new coal-plant emissions alone exceed Oregon's total emissions by at least a factor of 20?

Oregonians will incur substantial costs due to this terrible proposal while receiving no benefits in return. We are the real "stakeholders" here, not the environmental extremists who are dictating our futures and risking our prosperity.

LC19 is little changed from its predecessor - HB2020 – and in many ways it is actually worse!

- LC19, like HB2020 is being drafted with an "emergency clause," which is clearly intended to prevent public opposition through a ballot initiative. Despite Greta Thunberg's protestations to the contrary, there is no emergency that will be mitigated by this proposal – this is proven by the fact that this proposal will have no impact on the climate at all!
- From what we understand, certain records related to LC19 are being exempted from Oregon's Public Records Law. How does that align with the Governor's pledge for transparency? What does the Legislature have to hide?
- LC19 is HB2020 rewritten with "concessions" designed to fool those who object to "cap and trade" legislation - claiming that this new version will spare rural areas, as well as including other exemptions and "carveouts;" however, we're fully aware that these loopholes will be quickly closed, and that rural areas will ultimately bear the full brunt of this terrible proposal.
- LC19 clearly jeopardizes Oregon jobs – this is evidenced by the fact that the proposal includes provisions for assistance to workers who will be displaced or lose their jobs due to the implementation of cap and trade policy.
- LC19 will increase the cost of the natural gas and already very expensive propane that people need in order to heat their homes.
- LC19 will increase the cost of the gasoline and diesel fuels that people need for daily transportation, recreation, and to run their businesses.
- LC19 will increase the cost of all goods and services produced in Oregon, and will damage many business as people will spend a greater portion of their income on the fuel and energy they need to conduct their lives and businesses rather than on the goods and services they would otherwise purchase.
- LC19 will be BAD FOR OREGON! The Legislature needs to focus on initiatives to improve the lives of Oregonians - not on punishing them!

LC19 is a sweeping and very impactful proposal. If it is to move forward, it should be placed on the ballot and subjected to a vote of the people! We're hoping it never makes it that far, and we will be petitioning our Republican representatives to again walk out if necessary to prevent this legislation from advancing. We will also be participating along with thousands of other Oregonians in the protest which will be held at the Capitol on February 6.

Thank you for your consideration.

Keith and Tami LaHaie