

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [SENR Exhibits](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen Heard](#); [Rep Leif](#); [Sen Dembrow](#)  
**Subject:** OPPOSITION to 2020 LC 19 "Relating to greenhouse gas emissions... declaring an emergency"  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2020 4:03:29 PM

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January 17, 2020

To: Senate Interim Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Testimony OPPOSING LC 19 "Relating to greenhouse gas emissions... declaring an emergency": successor to 2019's HB 2020 a.k.a. "Cap and Invest" a.k.a "Cap and Trade" a.k.a "Clean Energy Jobs Bill", etc.

Hello. My name is Mike Berry. I am a legal citizen, a resident of Oregon senate district 01 and house district 02, and a voter. I was born and raised in Oregon- part of a family involved in log trucking, logging, mill work, and other activities. I became a mechanical engineer, left the state for work opportunities, and returned for (mostly) family considerations. Contrary to the picture painted by reported employment numbers, I STILL find the opportunities for gainful employment few and far between. I've observed the struggle of communities whose economies are traditionally resource-based, still suffering from effects of a pendulum that swung to a position of loving nature to death after a period of over-exploitation. I've lived in 3 other states. While living in Illinois (a state whose fiscal health is now quite bad), I became aware of the existence of "machine" politics. Meanwhile, I was oblivious to the build-out of a political machine in my own home state. This political machine has its power centered in Portland metro area. Their focus appears to be extreme "progressive" causes. The "machine" appears to operate to great extent as a puppet of skillful political manipulators (a good share of them NOT Oregonians), working to implement relatively extreme "progressive" agendas. Shame on me for not even knowing that this was happening, much less doing anything about it (until recently). I have been engaging in dialog in regard to this issue since at least 2016. State Sen. Lee Beyer was helpful to me early-on. Thank you, Sen. Michael Dembrow providing a "Summary of Core Elements of the Oregon Greenhouse Gas Initiative" (Ref. 1).

**BOTTOM LINE:** I am opposed to Legislative Concept LC 19 (Ref. 2) in its entirety. I realize that, even if given an unlimited time to study the concept, I would probably fully understand only a small portion of it. Nonetheless, I oppose. I do not intend insult to those who care about our state who ave worked hard on it- but its foundation appears to be prepared for the benefit of California, Quebec, and Nova Scotia (and perhaps prepared in large part BY them or surrogates). I will offer more specific criticisms later. But first-

Just yesterday morning, I saw and heard Sir David Attenborough (on BBC TV "Live" 1/16/2020), say- "...The moment of crisis has come." Maybe true. However, LC 19 would appear to do little, if anything to mitigate. Consider the following.

1. Oregon's GHG emissions is said to be a TINY fraction of total global human-caused emissions. To reduce Oregon's emissions to ZERO would be almost inconsequential.
2. There is a school of thought that (globally) EMISSIONS of CO2 are less a problem than REDUCTIONS in carbon sink, i.e. deforestation. This might be improved by better forest management and planting trees- LOTS OF THEM. Globally.
3. GHG emissions of other countries are large, and some are increasing quickly. We should not export even more of our emissions to them.

Now I'd like to address two points from the summary section of LC 19:

1. "Declares emergency, effective on passage."  
Such declaration is NOT "...necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety", but is an effective tool for bypassing voters. A MAJOR BONE OF CONTENTION.
2. "Prohibits sale or offer for sale of general service lamps that do not meet certain efficiency standards. Authorizes State Department of Energy to modify prohibition by rule to align with laws of adjacent states."  
That's just silly. I love LED lamps, but consumers should be allowed the option of purchasing other types,

including the traditional incandescents. They might be selected to provide HEAT! Think about it.

Many have raised the objection that a huge matter like this should not be decided during a "short session". In absence of a genuine emergency, I agree.

Residents of Oregon should not be subjugated to benefit a corporation formed "to support the implementation of state and provincial greenhouse gas emissions trading programs"- a corporation run by people from the State of California and two Canadian provinces.

It is not clear to me whether the "weasel-wording" allegedly included in 2019's HB 2020 that might enable tax revenues collected from the sale of transportation fuels to be diverted to non-transportation uses has been clarified. If not, that clarification should be made.

Some have raised concerns about a lack of transparency- specifically around access to records. That should be addressed.

Care must be taken not to create legislation that increases legal systemic corruption and cronyism in Oregon. The well-connected individuals who currently comprise the "cottage industry" in play here should not receive benefit unfairly.

Much of the concern about climate change seems to be based on projections from computer modeling. Computer modeling can be a powerful tool. Personally, I have done a bit of computer modeling (to do building energy simulations). I enjoyed it and found it most helpful. HOWEVER- it has been said that "All models are wrong, but some are useful." I strongly agree with that. Because the "science" and "knowledge" behind this action is largely based on modeling- it is likely WRONG, but USEFUL. Great care should be taken before taking over more of our economy and subjugating one portion of the citizenry to the benefit others.

If LC 19 goes forward, bureaucracy would be expanded. Bureaucracies tend to be like zombies that resist being phased out when no longer useful. This is likely to bring with it much burden for taxpayers. We are already facing a crisis as a result of undisciplined spending. At least put a sunset date on this (if not already included).

Please consider killing this concept, or at least modify it to be less harmful. I think we would do fine without this money-grab that would benefit mostly the well-connected. Thank you.

References:

1. "Summary of Core Elements of the Oregon Greenhouse Gas Initiative" (LC 19):  
<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/20191/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/208887>
2. "LC0019\_DRAFT\_2020\_Regular\_Session" (LC 19):  
<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/20191/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/208874>

Signed,  
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Resident, Oregon senate district 01 and house district 02

cc:

State Sen. for District 01  
State Rep. for District 02  
State Rep. for District 45, Michael Dembrow, Chair of Senate Interim Committee On Environment and Natural Resources