

Dear Chairs Dembrow, Power, and members of the committee,

I read the proposed draft of HB2020 and I have many concerns regarding the proposed legislation.

I am part owner and President of a third generation Cattle Ranch and Tree Farm in Coos and Curry Counties, an area of our state that has struggled economically for decades. We have two employees, but provide contract work for over 20 area residents.

The Cattle and Timber we provide to the marketplace are commodities, and thus we're necessarily a price taker, and we need to compete with other suppliers on a global basis. The additional costs proposed for our industry will erode our already thin margins, make us uncompetitive vis-à-vis our competitors in neighboring states and countries, and possibly make us unprofitable.

I've read that our state has grave concerns about succession planning for Farms, Ranches, and small timberland owners. This bill will exacerbate the problem, and further divide the state between the urban "haves", and the rural "have-nots".

Our ranch has over a hundred year history of being good stewards of our land. We provide Oregon with clean water, wildlife habitat, carbon sucking grass and timberlands, not to mention yearly income taxes, property taxes, harvest taxes etc. Let's not kill the goose that provides the few golden eggs in rural Oregon.

Oregon's share of worldwide greenhouse gas emissions is less than nine one thousandths. If we achieve your goal of an 80% reduction by 2050, (a big if, considering failures of these carbon markets in most places they've been tried), we would contribute three one thousandths. I wonder why we would embark on such an egregious restructuring of our economy, with all the unknown, unintended consequences, for such a negligible reduction, having zero impact on the problem.

Oregon has some big problems that need addressing. The PERS Liability, homelessness, and education are all critical issues that need to be resolved for the future of our state. Please make these your priorities, and not saddle our state with another large bureaucratic regulatory agency that stifles economic activity and entrepreneurial innovation.

Respectfully,

Quincy Powers  
Powers Ranch Co.