

HB 2020 Carbon Cap 2019

Co-Chairs and Carbon Reduction Committee members,

I am Bill J. Kluting, Legislative Affairs Representative for the Oregon Carpenters Industrial Council representing 1000's of Industrial workers and their families across this state. In looking thru this draft I see many issues that would severely affect my members and others in the industrial sector including paper-pulp mills, sawmills, plywood plants, co-gen facilities. I see mentioned in the bill the issue of workers that could or will lose their job if this legislation passes. I see nothing mentioned about ensuring these displaced folks don't lose their health benefits. Mentioned in the bill talks of job retraining (green jobs)possibilities but a large majority of my members live in and spent their life in rural Oregon. Oregon has failed many times trying to create "green jobs" and failed. I'm asking what jobs are available for retraining and where this will take place. I doubt if any member of this committee has lost their job due to a plant closing and experienced what the displaced workers go thru. I, after my mill closed I worked with over 2000 displaced workers. My responsibility was to ensure these folks had access to all the benefits of Federal (Trade Act and NAFTA) and State laws to help displaced workers. By working with Federal and State experts we did have some success but less than 35% found comparable employment to finish out their work careers. Many lost their homes and family health insurance. Many never ever recovered and it affected them thru the rest of their lives.

In my opinion Oregon has done a lot and will do more to help control this carbon issue but look what is going on around us. What needs to be done is properly manage our forests in North America. Dying and dead forests in Canada, Washington, Oregon, California and all the western states release stored carbon and when they burn they release mega millions of tons of carbon and other deadly chemicals into our air every year. Every year our fires get worse. On top of that this burnt material as it decays continues to release carbon for decades to come.

In previous hearings on carbon invited speakers talked about how well their programs are doing but none talked of the problems and issues this type of legislation has experienced. This question has to be asked and answered before we pass anything close to HB 2020. We need to look at what happened in the state of Washington as the people soundly rejected a bill that resembled HB 2020

Over the last decade countries in Latin America, South America and South East Asia have stripped to bare ground over 100 million acres of virgin forests (the lungs of the earth) to plant palm oil trees. These lands were once carbon sinks but now for the next hundred years they will be carbon emitters. Many of these countries with China's financial backing have stated they each will destroy an additional million acres a year for palm oil production into the future. Speaking of China with their building with concrete they are responsible for 5%,(20 times more than the U.S.) of the Worlds carbon release and when you factor in the carbon and other deadly chemicals released from their coal burning power plants that have no or little emission controls this percentage rises quickly. Almost all China's emissions drift across the Pacific and lands on our western states. The point I would like to make it seems Oregon is being blamed for this world wide carbon issue which we are only a small part. There are things we can do but passing HB 2020 Carbon Cap without changes will only hurt the industrial working class and rural Oregon.

Bill J. Kluting

Carpenters Industrial Council