

February 17, 2019

We are farmers who have been in business since 1970 in the Ontario, Oregon area. Being good stewards is something we take pride in. We maintain good agricultural practices and try to provide quality agricultural produce to the nation. However we are concerned with the cap and trade bill 2020.

Our profits are meager and the last three years commodity prices have dropped so it is hard to farm under these conditions. We are very sensitive to price increases. Bill 2020 will increase our diesel fuel by .16 a gallon. Currently, we use DEF in our diesel to reduce emissions and we will continue this practice, however we will be at a great disadvantage compared to farmers in neighboring states if we have this additional cost.

In addition, we noticed that no hearings are scheduled east of Bend. Bend is a 5 hour drive from Ontario. Yes, we are still part of the state of Oregon. With it being wintertime it seems only fair to schedule some hearings in Pendleton, or LaGrande or Ontario.

Farmers, ranchers, and rural families are going to bear a disproportional burden of these costs. Too few safeguards are built into the bill for growers who rely on diesel fuel and inputs made from natural gas. We just want to not be discriminate against because we are living a long way from our markets. It takes energy for us to produce crops and get them to the buyers.

I read in the Capital Press that Ramon Ramirez with the farmworkers union thought tractor emissions were causing premature deaths in field workers. Fieldworkers are not generally in fields with tractors. OSHA frowns on that. In eastern Oregon, more farmers die early because of the stress and regulations they deal with, than fieldworkers. We value our employees and do not subject them to excessive emissions.

We urge you to step back and add amendments so this bill will not be a huge burden on the Oregon farmer.

Thank you for your time,

Rod and Launa Frahm
Trevor and Krista Frahm
Spencer and Genniel Frahm