

Testimony HB 2020 from Elaine Woods, 759 NW 17<sup>th</sup> Place, Beaverton 97006

To: Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction

Chair Dembrow, Chair Power, Vice Chair Benz, Vice Chair Brock Smith & Committee members,  
Thank you for the opportunity to share with you my objections to HB 2020:

- EPA statistics: Oregon already has the 6<sup>th</sup> lowest carbon emissions in the nation

National Geographic calls California the Air Pollution King. Why would we increase our taxes and cost of living so punitively and foolishly in order to follow their lead? Their plans are already failing – light-rail is expensive and their plans for a fast train had to be scrapped.

We already have a much better air quality than California and are making better strides.

Between 2000-2016 Oregon reduced GHG emissions by 11.4%, CA by only 8.1%

Cost of living issues, especially impacting those of us on fixed incomes:

Raise energy prices:

Gas tax increase by \$.16 per gallon – goal of eliminating personal cars or going to electric cars. There are problems with electric cars, however:

The lithium-iron battery cells that are used have a problem of toxic waste once they wear out. The batteries give off toxic gases if damaged and cannot be put in landfills. Recycling capacity is not yet able to keep up with production capacity.

These tax increases for gasoline especially hit those who live in rural, spread out areas and who grow our food: farmers and greenhouses, and the trucking industry that moves products.

- Farmers already operate on a narrow margin – I grew up on a small dairy farm which could not keep up with the cost of equipment such as tractors, combines, etc. Equipment which takes a lot of gasoline or diesel fuel, on ranches and farms spread out in rural areas.

Farmers cannot relocate out of state, as the manufacturing jobs will have to do. And the manufacturers will have to relocate and take jobs with them if they want to survive.

- Have you not heard of the Yellow Vest riots in France, because of their punitive taxes in the name of reducing Climate Change? What does the public need to do for you to listen?

- Energy: PGE – Free allowances until 2030 to phase out coal. These energy producing coal plants are the source of energy for producing the batteries powering and charging the electric vehicles that are being promoted.

Natural gas rates are projected to increase by 54%, affecting our energy bills and ability to cook our food and heat + cool our homes.

The technology to eliminate our dependency on fossil fuels is not yet effective enough to warrant these changes which Oregonians cannot afford.

**Please vote NO on HB 2020.**