

I am writing in opposition of HB 2020.

I am a second generation Christmas Tree farmer. This bill will make getting our product to market even more costly than it is today. Like everyone else faced with increasing operating cost we will have little option but to pass this on to the consumer.

The loss of market share in our industry has a much larger impact than just financial. Consumers are being driven to fake trees that are extremely toxic to our environment. In record numbers people are shifting their buying habit's away from the environmentally friendly, oxygen producing, renewable resource, that is the "Real Christmas" tree, to the petroleum based, lead painted, insect infested, Chinese wooden stemmed pipe cleaner fake Christmas tree.

In my opinion the carbon emissions that our family farms produces in growing our crops to feed our families pales in comparison to the fake alternatives produced here and abroad.

My family ask you to vote "No" on HB 2020. Protect the family farm from increased cost under cap and trade, as well as the invasion of fake trees.

Thank you,

Ben Stone

BTN of Oregon