

Committee members:

I'm a small business owner in Eastern Oregon and I'm writing to voice my strong opposition to the Cap & Trade legislation that's being considered by your committee. The Oregon Legislature continues to place financial burden on business of all size as though there is an endless supply of revenue that can be gained from taxing businesses. This bill would significantly add to that burden while doing very little for the environment.

I travel the Idaho/Oregon border region frequently. What is happening along the Snake River is a microcosm of what is happening to business expansion in Oregon. Regional businesses that have a choice to locate on the Idaho side of the Snake River or Oregon side of the river, are choosing the Idaho side to locate their business because of the extremely unfriendly business environment in Oregon. The threat of a Cap and Trade bill is a major factor in that decision.

Fuel is obviously a major input on farms and ranches. Increasing that cost puts our farmers and ranchers at a distinct disadvantage in the marketplace. I own a livestock supply business that is directly impacted by the economic strength of farms and ranches. I employ 11 full time employees and a few part time employees. This bill will directly affect the level of employment at my two stores. Agriculture is a major part of the Oregon economy and this bill is a direct attack on the future of agriculture in Oregon.

Proponents of the bill will argue that the revenue gained from the permitting process will be distributed throughout the state to areas most impacted economically. This is a short term solution to a long term problem. As businesses choose to locate outside of our state, there will be less revenue from permits and less employees to pay local and state taxes.

It is a forgone conclusion that this bill will pass, but please make all attempts possible to reduce it's impact on Oregon businesses. Our livelihood depends on it!

Thanks,

Martin Arritola
Oregon Trail Livestock Supply
Baker City, OR