

My name is Heidi Geschwill, I am a part owner of F&B Farms LLC in Woodburn Oregon. The proposals set forth in HB 2020 are very worrisome to me as a farmer, and as a citizen. We have long term hop growing contracts, filbert orchards, and greenhouses. Looking down the road at higher fuel prices will be a great hardship for us—and for all of agriculture. Oregon produces .1% of the world's greenhouse gases, yet Oregon government believes the people and business in the state are somehow going to be able to mitigate enough, to impact the rest of the planet.

Biodiesel isn't a viable solution. The amount of fertilizer and energy it takes to produce corn for fuel is astronomical. That is why it hasn't taken off. Free enterprise is making regular diesel more clean and efficient. Do not force a fuel source on industry, that is only a feel-good for government. As a state and nation, we need to safely develop more natural gas and petroleum. The poorest nations in the world are ones that do not have access to affordable fuel. The ideas in HB 2020 will hurt our economy. Do not demonize natural gas. It is a safe, clean burning fuel source.

The house my husband and I bought, went on the market because the previous owners moved their business to Florida. They moved to Florida after a big tax hike was voted in after the 2008 Oregon election. I'm sure they were not the only ones that fled the hostile business climate in Oregon. If HB 2020 goes through, more businesses to leave. Some farmers already plan to process their product in neighboring states. As farmers, we don't have the option to relocate. Our only option will be to endure tighter margins, while still trying to feed a lot of people as efficiently as possible.

I do agree that there needs to be funding to reduce forest fire fuel, but the solution should not be a cap and trade scheme. The state needs to reign in corrupt spending, start monitoring programs like OHP, trim the unnecessary programs and public positions. There is plenty of funding out there. HB 2020 is a revenue grab. Nobody can admit that taxing Oregon business is going to make a difference in global greenhouse gases. We are barely contributing to the problem!

Thank you for putting me on the record.

Sincerely,
Heidi M. Geschwill