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To: Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction

I would like to share a few thoughts on your carbon taxing bill. We are a small ILEC, "Rural Telephone Company in Eastern Oregon, along with a small Construction Company, and a family. Your proposed carbon taxing will have a huge impact on our lives as well as our businesses. Please understand we don't live along the I-5 corridor and can't just run to town to see the doctor or even to a local gas station, we have neither available. It is a 40-mile trip one way to the grocery store (of any size as we do have a small mom and pop grocery store in town) The nearest hospital is the same distance, as are our pharmacies and doctors. As for the business end of this our fuel is already trucked out to us to be dispensed to a 500+ gallon fuel tank several times of year. Our company has a fleet of vehicles used in the service of our customers as well as maintenance of our plant. When in the construction phase of our operations we can use several thousand gallons of fuel in a month in our equipment and vehicles. All of these costs will be increased by your proposed HB2020 with no way to offset them. As legislatures you are all keenly aware that small businesses aren't in business to go out of business, but to try and provide a quality product for the least cost. Your bill will be greatly detrimental to this goal. Most increased costs to a company, i.e.... state and federal taxes, increased shipping costs, increased construction costs and such are almost always passed on to the customer. Your HB 2020 will have the same effect!

As rural residents we also raise beef cattle, your HB 2020 will have an impact on that operation as well. Our fuel for raising hay, cutting hay, harrowing the fields and bringing beef to market quality will also increase. Again, whom do you think will see this increase in our production costs, the customer. Your HB 2020 will make production of land and farm products more expensive, for no reason! One thing to be remembered in all this "Greenhouse Talk" is where do you think your food and land products come from? These products come from farmers, cattle producers and ranchers, you continue to cut into their limited profit you will see a marked decrease in their production, thus what you see at your local "Safeway's thus in the end your groceries and meat products will raise exponentially! Has anyone considered that consequence?

Finally, how many more "Policy Offices" does the state of Oregon need? WE are over run by state laws, policies and policy makers. We continue to make new "Policy Offices, one for Carbon Emission's, one for Broadband, one for Electrical policy. Enough of this already. There are enough qualified State Employees to handle these jobs as it is, no more Oregon Government or State Employees need to be added to our TAX BASE please!

Thank you,

Rusti A. Lattin

Rusti Lattin

Administrative Secretary