

Dear Committee Members,
I am writing to you on behalf of Byrnes Oil Company.

My name is Mitch Byrnes and I am a third generation partner in Byrnes Oil Company.
My Grandfather started the company in 1963, my Father is the current owner.

We are a third generation, family owned business and we employ around 50 people year round.

We have complied fully with the Clean Fuels program, and feel that this is a great program. We have also made great improvements in the way we store and deliver fuel.

HB 2020 however has many flaws.

It will, without a doubt raise the price of fuel. On our already thin margins, we will have no choice but to pass these costs onto our customers. We operate in a rural part of the state and many of our customers will not be able to absorb the expected increase of .16 to .60 cents per gallon more.

Transportation is the livelihood of many people. Without it, there would drivers out of work, delayed shipping of many goods and services, and delays in emergency response.

While the Clean Fuels Program will reduce the carbon intensity in fuels, Cap and Trade offers no alternative path for compliance in the fuels sector.

Cap and Trade is specifically about removing fossil fuels. Do you have any idea how many products are made from fossil fuels? There are over 6,000 items made. Cap and Trade would severely hamper manufacturing, construction, and a number of other industries. Putting countless businesses on the edge of closing down, and putting numerous individuals out of work.

HB 2020 would likely put many small businesses in jeopardy of going out of business as we would have to compete with larger, multi-national companies for allowances. As the smaller fuel marketers went out of business, a monopoly would begin to form, which would hurt the consumer due to lack of competition.

I doubt it is the intention of HB 2020 to put a company like mine out of business, but you can be sure that I will fight any threat to our company that my grandfather started over 56 years ago. That is 56 years of pride. 56 years of hard work. 56 years of dedication, sweat, tears, joy and all the other factors that a small business owner endures.

It is funny to me, that we are potentially being punished for simply hauling a product that literally everyone in the world uses on a daily basis. To me, that does not make much sense at all.

I am all for cleaning up the environment in responsible ways. This bill is the furthest thing from responsible.

Thank you.
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