

I am the Harney County Farm Bureau President, representing over 197 members. I also own a ranch here in Harney County. I ask you to oppose HB 2020. As drafted, it has significant adverse impacts on farmers and ranchers in Oregon and especially here in Harney County where the unemployment rate is approaching 6%.

Profit margins in farming and ranching are meager, and family farms and ranches are sensitive to price increases.

HB 2020 will substantially increase the costs of production on farms and ranches here in Harney County. We are a commodity based industry and cannot pass on increased cost, we just have to absorb them.

It takes energy to produce food and fiber. Fuel costs and natural gas price increases will be passed down to consumers. Family farms and ranches could be saddled with thousands of dollars of additional tax burden each year and our rural communities are already disproportionately suffering, further increasing the rural urban divide.

HB 2020 would make it harder to farm or ranch in Oregon and discourage young and beginning farmers and rancher. I am personally helping a young couple that wants to get into the ranching business. Their dream is to some day own their own ranch and be able to raise their 3 little girls on a ranch here in Harney county. With the increase cost that HB 2020 will bring it will make that dream difficult if not impossible.

Rural communities will be hit disproportionately hard by cap-and-trade. I ask you to help family farmers and ranchers here in Harney county, by working to minimize the impact of cap-and-trade policy on rural communities and businesses. Harney County is an agriculture based community, every time a rancher or farmer fails the entire community is negatively impacted.

HB 2020 could end up costing family ranchers and farmers here in Harney County thousands of dollars in new taxes each year without any benefit.

I ask you to vote 'NO' on HB 2020 as currently drafted. Protect family farmers and ranchers from cost increases under cap-and-trade. Agriculture is import to Oregon, family ranchers and farms here in Oregon produce the safest and cheapest food any were. It is important that there are able to continue.

Thank you for your time,

Thurston (Rusty) D. Inglis

Harney County Farm Bureau President.

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TI Ranch

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