

**To: JOINT COMMITTEE ON CARBON REDUCTION**

2/20/2019

To the committee,

My name is Zach Christensen, 16201 SW Christensen Rd McMinnville OR 97128.

I'm writing today to voice my opposition to HB 2020 and cap and trade in general. I farm as the 5<sup>th</sup> generation on our land and I'm raising the 6<sup>th</sup> generation prospectively. Since 1902 my family has been a stewards of the land, we have been active in the community and have grown to support 15 full time family jobs with benefits as well as 20+ plus seasonal jobs paying in excess of \$15/hr. I have converted over half of my farm to permanent crops and adopted No-till practices on most of the rest. I've been awarded the Yamhill County Conservation Farmer of the Year. I've spent several hundred thousand dollars on conservation over the years to reduce my impact and create efficiency on the farm. I have a BS in Agriculture from Oregon State University. I have studied at nauseum soil health and productive ecosystems. I've done all of this well before the State mandating these courses of action and much more efficiently and effective. In fact the state mandates have weakened many of our policies and put us at a disadvantage.

I believe the most effective money is spent at the most local level.

Just the estimated \$.16 per gallon rise in fuel cost will cost our farm approximately \$15,000. This is significant to a family operation.

We in agriculture are price takers, we can not just pass the cost on nor should we have to.

The carbon offset market that agriculture "may be" able to work with are not establish, proven, accurately priced, or accessible to the average farmer.

I do not think giving this to a bunch of unelected, unaccountable, central government bureaucrats is wise. If you really believe that consolidating power is a good idea then you should really not be upset with the current federal administration. Previous administrations have done this consolidation of power and now we are reaping what we've sown. Be ready for the shift in leadership that will come, and all the feel good programs gutted and transform into something that you don't recognize, because you gave them the power.

Sincerely,

Zach Christensen