

Feb. 18, 2019

Honorable Legislators,

HB 2020 will create hardships for rural Oregonians and low income citizens with minuscule impact on reducing carbon.

Rural Oregonians are impacted more harshly because we drive more. There is little public transportation to the locations we need and our distances are farther. Harney District Hospital provides basic medical services, but many specialized care needs are referred out of town. The *minimum* distance a patient can drive is 240 miles to see a doctor. Our area has one of the largest unemployment rates in the state. It also is one of the lowest income areas in the state. Good people living on very narrow financial margins will go without healthcare when they cannot afford the gas to seek treatment.

Furthermore, delivery of our groceries and life sustaining items such as electricity will all see increased fuel prices for their delivery and service vehicles. Those prices will be passed on to each of us. Again the low income family will be stretching an already tight budget to keep their lights and heat on, put food on the table, get to their jobs, let alone seek medical care.

While these industries can pass on the cost, agriculture is a price taking business. Most of eastern Oregon is small family farmers and ranchers who are already experiencing narrow to negative margins trying to stay in business. There will be 2.3 billion more people in 30 years. They and you will all want to eat three meals a day. Not all of the food should be from a cell cultured vat in a lab. Our crops and trees sequester carbon, yet there is not a viable opportunity to take advantage of that in this bill. Small family operations are not able to hire a full time office person to manage the application process. BUT you will provide for roadside landscaping and credit that carbon sequestration! The carbon sequestration alongside roads is miniscule compared to the vast beautiful acres Oregon's healthy lands sequester.

Currently there are nine methane digesters in Oregon. None of them are in production as the price of electricity from hydro is so much cheaper than production costs from digesters.

Our schools will also be impacted by higher fuel prices. Buses pick up any student a mile or more away from the school. Many buses drive over 100 miles per day to cover their routes. Our county is larger than nine states in our nation. As overhead goes up, the dollars left for actual teaching goes down. Our students already only go to school four days a week because of budget constraints. Inequity in providing a quality education for ALL of Oregon's students is a serious issue.

Futurists are already predicting a faster rate of consolidation in agriculture. This bill will cause consolidation as small family farmers and ranchers are forced out of business. Is this the unintended consequence you desire?

HB 2020 creates funds that allow funding for not only carbon reduction, but also a broad spectrum of social justice issues that do nothing to eliminate carbon. I strongly feel that the funds generated need to be limited to projects like research to create cost effective alternative energy that would achieve actual measurable reduced carbon. Improve our infrastructure like roads and bridges so vehicles can be more efficient in the delivery of products we all use and enjoy.

Section 24 of the bill allows the funds generated in Oregon to be used for projects in Canada or “in other jurisdictions”. Oregon dollars need to stay in Oregon to benefit Oregonians. That being said, in Section 31 the very funds we contribute can be used against us in agriculture to purchase water rights and private property for fish and wildlife. This does NOT reduce carbon sequestration, but it does reduce our ability to produce healthy food for a growing population! Please be careful in creating a bill where there are winners and losers. Looking ahead for alternative energy for our growing population is important, but please create a win win opportunity for everyone! *Everyone wants and needs to eat!*

Just ONE wild fire in Oregon produces more carbon than all of Portland produces for a whole year! Oregon has many more than one fire each year. If Oregon is to be a TRUE leader in healthy landscapes, air, and water quality then managing these resources wisely to prevent catastrophic wild fire would be more beneficial than all of these efforts suggested in this bill. It would also generate more revenue for Oregon schools, hospitals and infrastructure.

I respectfully request that in the best interest of all Oregonians’ ability to eat high quality, locally raised, affordable food you exempt dyed diesel from the increases put on fuel. I also ask that dollars generated from this bill are used strictly for purposes that genuinely reduce carbon, improve our infrastructure, and fund research to make Oregonians profitable from the innovative energy production created. The dollars generated by Oregonians should be used for projects in Oregon that benefit Oregonians. If the innovative products for alternative energy Oregon scientists create benefits some of the rest of the world, great. But think of the brain trust Oregon could recruit if those dollars stay in Oregon!

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns.

Susan Doverspike

Doverspike1254@gmail.com

30552 Hotchkiss Lane

Burns, Oregon 97720