

Senator Dembrow, Representative Power and Committee Members:

My name is Nick Bowers and I am a 4th generation grass seed farmer from Harrisburg. All the crops I grow are for seed. We have grown or currently grow Annual Ryegrass, Wheat, Meadowfoam, Peas, Clover, Triticale, Flax, and Turnips.

The main crop I grow is Annual Ryegrass. Approximately 25% of my crop is exported to South Korea and Japan where it is used for pastures and erosion control. 25% of my crop is exported to different states to be used for forage. And, 50% is sent to the mid-west to be used for cover crops. Cover crops are used by corn and soybean producers to stop erosion, recycle nutrients and to build up natural carbon levels in their soils to make their soils healthier.

On my farm, I use direct seeding practices that minimizes soil disturbances and maximizes carbon sequestration. Agriculture products and timber produce oxygen every day for Oregonians.

HB2020 does not reward us for the positive impact we have on the environment. HB2020 punishes us for any use of fossil fuels for the production of our crops and the export of our crops. If my fuel costs rise due to HB2020, it leaves me at a competitive disadvantage to seeds produced in other states and countries.

Please support my business and all Oregon businesses by not adding costs to our bottom line.

