

The so called Oregon Cap and Trade bills, in particular, HB 2020, will accomplish essentially nothing toward their stated goals. However, they will succeed in creating havoc with the Oregon economy and inflict punitive economic suffering on average and economically challenged Oregonians while creating a fiduciary arrangement benefiting the few at the expense of the many. Rejection of these bills is imperative.

What, then, is the purpose of these bills? When one looks at the details of HB2020 it is apparent that it is an attempt to create a punitive command and control economy. A bill with inequitable carve outs that will benefit the few, Intel specifically. Meanwhile, the legislation will destroy Southern Oregon's economy with language that will put the historical Southern Oregon business, Harry and David, in the noose, among so many others. Multnomah County and its satellite counties will be protected – Southern Oregon will be devastated. This proposed action is a punitive action pure and simple and rejects the legislative responsibility to protect the fiduciary well-being of ALL Oregonians. Are we colonial subjects in Southern Oregon? Is not the HB2020 sauce for the goose also good for the gander? Or is it already recognized that the sauce being prepared is a poisonous one?

This legislation cannot be ameliorated with additional "carve outs" that further inculcate corruption via crony capitalism. HB 2020's carve out defines who will profit at the citizens' expense resulting in the 3rd highest gasoline prices in the US and eventually a 50% increase in home heating costs for natural gas users. Food or heat? It's an immoral option. I am reminded of zealots in the previous decade, some environmentalist and some nationalist, trying to force us to biofuels. The result was diversion of food crops to fuel and resulting hunger in lesser developed regions of our planet; most contained people of color. A UN Special Rapporteur group on Hunger in 2007 declared the diversion to biofuels "a crime against humanity".

"Climate change is causing increasing severity and frequency of violent storms, droughts, floods, etc." this bill's supporters opine. Yet, a recent UN Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change report has not only debunked this charge but has admitted that evidence exists that the converse is true. This year the Nature Conservancy stated the West Hawaii coral has stabilized in bleaching and is taking steps to recovery. They realized the causative factors included a strong El Nino, over fishing, waste runoff etc. - not climate change. The Maldiv Islands are not only not inundated by sea level rise but seem to be increasing land mass, despite breathless predictions of a decade ago. Polar bears are increasing in population belying the specious, unethical propaganda inflicted on our young, impressionable school children.

Consensus! exclaim the devotees of anthropogenic climate change. As someone who taught evidence-based medicine to physicians in occupational and environmental medicine it is necessary to point out that "consensus" is the lowest level of scientific evidence. History is replete with the failure of consensus. Bleeding patients to cure various ills, infections, etc. was the "consensus" for treatment for centuries despite being ineffective and harmful. Louis Pasteur was reviled in the medical community since he went against consensus. More recently overall cholesterol levels were the consensus benchmark for heart disease risk – we now know it is more attributable only to certain fractions and some types of cholesterol are beneficial. Science is never settled.

Even if Oregon exceeds its proposed "green goals" the effect on the world's climate will be infinitesimal, perhaps not even measurable. Zero CO2 emissions by Oregon would result in an impact world-wide that would be "imperceptible" according to expert testimony from the director of the Oregon Climate

Services and Oregon Climate Change Research Institute in committee hearing last year. In questioning, the director of Oregon Department of Environment Quality admitted Oregon's contribution to global carbon emission is "miniscule". However, the resulting punitive economic effects on Oregonians in disadvantaged areas from these proposed legislative actions will be profound.

We are promised a "green economy" by the proponents of this legislation. This green utopia will instead result in a dystopian future. A future that shatters smaller family economic producers, lower wage earners and our fixed income elders. Many Oregonians will face a depraved, governmentally-forced Hobbesian choice between food and heat.

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