

What happened on Saturday

In the four hours of testimony before the Oregon Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction in Medford, two quite different sides of HB2020 “facts” emerged. The opposition was based apparently on fear of the cost of HB 2020 on southern Oregon. The supportive side pointed to the exact opposite – how well the economies of other communities have done post cap and trade legislation. Those opposed said that HB 2020 would have a minimal impact on global climate change so HB 2020 should die. Those in favor talked about the very short scientific time period to act, so HB 2020 was the minimum, they said, that should be undertaken as fast as possible.

The emotional passion behind the fear-based argument was more than evident, causing the government panel to urge lower volumes of sound repeatedly. Those for HB 2020 presented at lower volume but with the utmost urgency. In its present form, HB2020 does address the concerns of the fear based folks, especially those impacted by the transition to a renewable energy economy, and particularly rural communities like southern Oregon.

The Joint Committee panel was repeatedly thanked by all for coming to southern Oregon and listening to everyone.