

February 24, 2019

Re: House Bill 2020

Dear Committee Members,

My wife and I have been Baker County residents for our entire adult lives. We grew up in Eastern Oregon and raised a family here in Baker City enjoying all the outdoor activities that this area has to offer. Crystal clear streams in the nearby Elkhorn & Wallowa mountains along with the deep blue skies and endless stars at night, you can actually witness standing outside in the backyard, makes this area unique and one I will always call home.

Before I started my career with Ash Grove Cement in 1995, I had often heard of what a great community partner Ash Grove was to Baker County and the surrounding counties in Northeastern Oregon and Southwestern Idaho. After working at Ash Grove for nearly 25 years now, I can see for myself why Ash Grove has built such a strong reputation and relationship with our local communities. Through the Ash Grove charitable foundations, numerous projects have been approved and completed improving our schools, parks, hospitals, museums and fairgrounds in all the surrounding communities. The financial and moral support this company extends to all community partners is without a doubt something that cannot be replaced.

Ash Grove has also worked diligently to be a sound environmental and responsible partner to the local communities and to the State of Oregon. Everything from organizing and taking part in community tire clean-up days to installing a \$20,000,000 mercury baghouse system to reduce our mercury emissions to almost nothing. This is the kind of partner Ash Grove is to our state and to our communities.

As a longtime employee of Ash Grove and a resident of Baker County I am deeply concerned of the devastating impact the proposed House Bill 2020 would have on us as employees and on the surrounding communities that are so heavily supported by Ash Grove's continued existence. These are real people with family wage jobs who will sit back and wonder if they will soon be unemployed and be able to find another good paying job to support their families. This is also a community that will sit back and wonder how many of the supporting businesses will survive if Ash Grove ceases to operate. How will the devastating impact on the loss of tax revenue to our local economy impact our schools, public safety and other services? These are the questions we will be asking and wondering if anyone who makes these decisions really cares!

To the Joint Committee Members; I can't really say what the effect of passing House Bill 2020 will be, in regards to carbon reduction, in Oregon or anywhere else. Some say it will have no effect at all, some say it will just shift lost cement production to China, who do nothing to regulate their emissions and therefore making it worse, or some say it will just move businesses completely out of Oregon who have no viable alternatives. These things have and will continue to be debated among our representatives for years to come I'm sure. I ask that in your quest to "do something" that you remember the effects your decisions have on the real residents in our little Eastern Oregon communities and on our state as a whole. One thing that is not debatable, the devastating effect this bill would have on our communities here in Eastern Oregon if Ash Grove is forced to shut down.

Sincerely,

Tom Bunch
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