

Against House Bill 2020

Concerns from an Ash Grove Cement Employee

History & Area Impact -

Ash Grove Durkee Plant has been in Production for 40 years in Eastern Oregon. Ash Grove is an Employer of Choice, due to their attraction, development and retention of talented employees. For 40 years Oregonians have been building careers, paying state taxes and supporting the local and state economy by working at Ash Grove in Durkee, OR.

Specifically:

- 115 Employees
- \$13 Million Annual Payroll
- Generating more than \$726,000 Local Taxes Paid
- Bolstering and generating approximately 600 plus additional jobs from local companies that support Ash Grove's operations in Oregon

For 40 years the Ash Grove plant embraces their corporate responsibility and has become a mainstay to the local economy and support to the surrounding communities. Ash Grove is honored serve and be an instrumental part of the communities in which their employees live and work. In 2018, the Ash Grove Charitable Foundation donated approximately \$650,000 to more than 100 public charities.

Durkee, OR Plant contributions near \$300,000 directly to Eastern Oregon community needs:

- Treasure Valley Community College Science Center, Ontario, OR - \$100,000
- County Courthouse Clock Tower, Baker City, OR - \$40,000
- Carnegie Art Center, Baker City, OR - \$30,000
- Eastern Oregon Regional Theater renovations, Baker City, OR - \$25,000
- Leo Adler Memorial Parkway Donation, Baker City, OR - \$25,000
- Sports Complex soccer field lighting, Baker City, OR - \$16,500
- Park upgrades at Cedar Acres Park, Baker City, OR - \$15,000
- PTO School Welding Shop improvements, North Powder, OR - \$15,000
- Band Stand, Baker City, OR - \$10,000
- Band Stand, Huntington, OR - \$6,000
- Water Truck to Durkee Fire Department - Donated
- Contributing to the livability of Durkee, OR

Environment & Responsibility -

Further demonstrating the care, and investment that Ash Grove supplies to the immediate area and Oregon overall is by facilitating a Community Advisory Committee of citizens from the area that include business owners, county commissioners, city managers, farmers and Ash Grove employees. Meeting quarterly to identify opportunities for further investment in the community through support by Ash Grove as well as providing transparency to the community and its members on Ash Grove activities and sharing environmental regulation and compliance.

Ash Grove Cement is proud of their ambitious goals in environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

Particularly through Environmental Leadership:

- Prioritizing our commitment and responsibility to our Community
- 2017 PCA Sustainable Manufacturing award for Innovation. The award recognizes the plant's development and implementation of a process to reduce mercury emissions by over 98%
- Environmental management system certified under ISO14001:2004
- Ash Grove Energy Management (AGEM) award 2016, 2013, 2011
- Maintenance Excellence Process (MEP) award 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2008
- Pacific Northwest International Section - Air and Waste Management Association
- Environmental Achievement Award for mercury control 2010
- EPA Energy Star Award 2016, 2009
- Mercury emissions slashed 98% through installation of control technology in 2010

Ash Grove, is an industry leader in environmental stewardship, the 5th largest cement company in the United States and one of the oldest still in operation, provides as part of the foundation and infrastructure of our country. House Bill 2020 as currently drafted does not consider the impact of losing one of their only 8 plants, one of their only 2 on the West Coast, and their sole plant located in Oregon. Ash Grove provides as a neighbor to the communities they live in and serve by directly and actively improving the quality of life to Eastern Oregon, effectively building better places to live and allowing the opportunity to have a career and contribute to the State as an Oregonian.

As currently written, not only will China be the choice provider of Cement, but the communities in which Ash Grove's employees live in will be inundated with unemployment and additional poverty problems, if House Bill 2020 is left unchanged to account for the impacts to Ash Grove Cement.

I am asking that the Legislative Committee acts responsibly and does not pass legislation that would force the company, Ash Grove, that so many Eastern Oregon communities and families are supported by to consider no longer producing in the state of Oregon.

Concerned Ash Grove Employee of over 24 years,

Donald Garrison

Husband, Father, Grandfather, Grandson, Brother, Uncle, Oregon Tax Payer