

House Bill 2020 influence on the Eastern Oregon Economy and Local Communities

For Regulated Party Free Allowances

Your responsibility to the State's economy is monumental. The affect that House Bill 2020, as drafted, would have on the poorest 'City' in Oregon, Ontario, where the Median Income is already the lowest and the Poverty Rate is the highest while the Unemployment Rate is in the top 10 Highest, assuredly be a much larger issue and expense to the State than any carbon limit would offset in the State's planned reduction to emissions.

Compromise is key in the language to be included in the final Bill, responsibly considering the immediate and long term shaping of the economy and opportunities available for Eastern Oregonians. Full understanding of the current contributions, preventative actions and role the responsible, compliant 'larger emitters' play in Eastern Oregon's economy, growth and communities is not an option but rather a requirement of our Legislative Committee. Any mature decision making process demands a well informed examination of where the positive impacts in an already disadvantaged Region of Oregon is coming from as to ensure not to disrupt the existing impact, involvement and prospects that directly feed all of the surrounding industries and commerce big and small.

Specifically not working closely with one of the biggest overall economic contributors in Eastern Oregon, Ash Grove Cement, who reliably implements and continually invests in safeguarding and using the newest technologies available to minimize possible impacts to the environment, would be a significant oversight of the Legislative Committees core responsibility in formulating the final conscientious version of House Bill 2020.

I am asking that the Legislative Committee act maturely as it has been tasked, and does not pass any legislation that would possibly force the company, Ash Grove, that so many Eastern Oregon communities and families are supported by, to consider no longer producing in the great state of Oregon.

Take action and overhaul the current version of the Bill in order to prevent large, valuable employers from leaving our State.

For your serious consideration,

Tara Garrison

Wife, Mother, Daughter, Granddaughter, Sister, Aunt, Oregon Tax Payer, Oregon Registered Democrat, Voter