

Hello, my name is Sarah Hucka and I had the privilege of hearing my fellow citizens address your committee in Springfield this afternoon, for 3.5 hours. I had to leave before my turn to testify. Thank you for hearing all of us today and at the other hearings scheduled around the state.

Since 2009, I have run a 10 acre organic produce farm in Dexter where I and five others make a modest living. My great-grandparents owned my land, and because my family has valued keeping the land undeveloped, I am afforded the opportunity to farm. I am committed to organic farming for the health of the land and my customers - my neighbors, even when labor and input costs take nearly all profit. Demand for organic produce is strong and increasing. However, buying land is still an obstacle that keeps many would-be farmers in other careers. I recently read in Oregon Tilth's *In Good Tilth*, that because of their cap and invest policies, California has been able to invest \$120 million in farmland through the purchase of conservation easements, helping farmers gain access to land that could otherwise be lost to development.

Small-scale farming is good for rural Oregon's environment and economy. All of the product from my farm is sold in Oregon. I nurture plants and soil that sequester carbon. I would gladly pay higher fuel and energy costs that could come about from HB 2020, knowing that with other Oregonians, we can move beyond fossil fuels. My customers also recognize the real costs of growing food, and are willing to pay more for what they believe in.

While HB 2020 becoming law would be a learning process and isn't a perfect solution, it is a step in acknowledging we have to change the status quo and adapt to a changing environment. We all need to recognize the cost of our consumption, and decide what legacy we will leave for future generations. Oregonians will continue to be industrious and creative as long as we survive, but let's be better equipped to do our best by designing resiliency into new policies like HB 2020.