

Thank you, Committee Members, for your work on HB 2020. You have my gratitude for focusing your energies, talents and heart as you address this crisis and as you continue this important mission.

I support the work of Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network, a non-profit organization that promotes agricultural practices that mitigate climate change and sequester carbon. Regenerative agriculture, or enlightened agriculture, with small to medium-sized farms has nearby markets so there is less carbon emissions from transportation and lower costs of transportation to markets. More than 200 Oregon farmers support cap and trade as they work to mitigate climate change.

Industrial, large farms incur higher transportation costs with far-a-way markets and they emit carbon from the transportation. Large, industrial farms emit carbon as their large equipment destroys soil. Chemicals are used to counter the lack of soil carbon and water and air are polluted and beneficial organisms are killed. More water is used as a result of the continuation of deteriorating soil. Fewer people are employed with use of large machinery. Profits are sent out of our communities in many instances. We should not encourage this negative cycle affecting our environment and the economy of our communities.

In contrast, small and medium-sized farms employ people, sequester carbon while using little or no chemicals. Water and air are not contaminated and less water is required. Crop yields are higher. Quality of plant is higher. Beneficial organisms multiply. We should support this positive cycle for our communities and for Oregon. Enlightened agriculture is the answer to feeding and employing the influx of climate refugees while protecting our environment and economy.

Please support the positive economic, social and environmental cycle for our communities. Do not support the negative cycle of the Walmarts of industrial agriculture. Thank you.

This easy to digest book, "the soil will save us" by Kristin Ohlson, is highly recommended.

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