

Raymond Smith  
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February 23, 2019  
Testimony H.B. 2020  
Opposition

Dear Co Chair Dembrow, Co Chair Power and members of the Committee:

I firmly oppose H.B. 2020 and request that this Committee consider my testimony when making its decision.

H.B 2020 is punitive in nature and will serve only to punish the citizens of Oregon for simply carrying out the necessities of life. This is an unnecessary tax that will cause considerable, if not disastrous economic hardship upon businesses, farms and citizens. The latter being likely to absorb much of the cost.

H.B. 2020 is discriminative as some will be affected much more than others. Rural areas tend to have more depressed economies and larger percentages of poorer people as higher wage jobs are far less plentiful. These people have to travel much farther than city and urban dwellers for every necessary thing. Everyday activities such as work, school, grocery shopping, Dr. visits, etc. requires vehicular travel for rural residents. In contrast, city and urban dwellers often live within walking or biking distance of many necessities or have access to public transportation.

Families, the elderly and people on fixed incomes will suffer greater financial hardship than the individual. For example, an individual can set at home in the dark with little heat, eat cold meals, rarely take a warm bath and only has need of vehicular travel for one person. Families require more electricity and more vehicular travel for obvious reasons. The elderly, commonly on fixed incomes, usually require more electricity for health and comfort. In each case harm has been inflicted, either physically, financially or both.

H.B. 2020 will have no positive effects on carbon reduction. The taxing or charging more for life necessities in order to produce a desired outcome of substantial reduction has proven in the past to be a failed tactic. This is also commonly referred to as behavioral modification. In recent years power companies within the U.S. deployed pilot programs using time of day pricing, coupled with smart meters, to study the reduction of power demand at peak times, relative to increased pricing for that time of day. In all cases these pilot programs were dismal failures. Although punished by higher prices, the schedule most people are required to live by is paramount to their survival. Your particular life, requires you to be out of bed, cooking, gone to work, bathing, asleep, etc. at a certain time.

Each of you have a responsibility, a fiduciary obligation as representatives to protect the public from the kind of harm H.B. 2020 poses. Please fulfill this obligation by opposing and rejecting this legislation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Raymond Smith