

Good afternoon Sen. Dembrow, Rep. Power, Sen. Bentz, Rep. Smith;

My name is Kris Bennett and I live in rural Hermiston in Eastern Oregon.

My business name is KRISanthemums and can be found at:

[www.KRISanthemums.com](http://www.KRISanthemums.com)

My flower design business, my greenhouse farmer business and our event venue gardens will be affected by cap and trade/ carbon reduction.

I rely on energy to keep my perishable products cooled or my greenhouse heated in the winter( we currently have had snow for over 4 weeks and more to come) when the plants are beginning to grow. My delivery vehicle puts several thousand miles per year on it , due to rural area I live in and deliver to. My product cannot be delivered by ups or the postal service as my product is extremely personalized and individualized for my clients. KRISanthemums is a very custom small business that supports myself and my husband.

With the cap and trade bill, I am aware of the costs that will impact my small business in rural Eastern Oregon. Being good stewards of the land and the environment are important to me. I currently compost foliage , recycle and reuse in my small business. I combine deliveries to make the best use of my fuel and vehicle. In the greenhouse the heater is on a temperature regulated thermostat so that I only use the heat that I need when the temperature drops below a certain level. When the sun is shining and I do not need the heat, it does not run with the same thermostat. Being a responsible small business is important to me and I feel like I am doing a good job. I try daily to find ways to improve on how I affect the environment, for it is the future for our children and grandchildren. I welcome you to come walk a day in my shoes.

In my studio, I have replaced all the overhead lights from halogen to LED and added insulation to the ceiling.

In the greenhouse, we have used the Energy Trust program when the greenhouse was built 4 years ago. This was to install the solar plastic for the ceiling cover and for a 93% efficient natural gas heater. We previously used propane to heat the greenhouse with an old heater and switching to natural gas proved to be a significant reduction in cost. We were excited to move towards more efficiency. Last fall we again used the Energy Trust program to replace the end walls to be more efficient and have already seen improvement towards that goal.

Even the basic impact of fuel for my mower to cover 5 acres for the event venue and all the other 'fuel' related items for the botanical gardens.

With the cap and trade bill, I am afraid that the costs will impact my small business in a negative way. My customers may not be able to afford the significant cost increase that I may need to pass on to them. Being a creative small business my clients expect quality and customer service that is second to none in our small town. That is how I

*have built the business and reputation over the last 20+ years. I realize that I am not a large corporation, utility or business that is located in a heavily populated area of the state. I do not have the luxury of lobbyists to share my ideas. As a small business owner my view is unique and often undervalued.*

*Thank you for considering how this issue affects me and my small business.*

*\*\*\*My son is a farmer in Umatilla County/ Eastern Oregon. He put himself through college to become a farmer and now has a family living on a small farm. His products are vegetable row crops for Nor Pac.*

*Reduction in the processing facility in our area last year, his transportation costs went from \$30,000 to well over \$100,000. Eastern Oregon farmers must get their products to the processors and markets. Decisions made by one side of Oregon may put small businesses out of business in Eastern Oregon. These Eastern Oregon farms feed not only us but others in the world.*

*Sincerely,  
Kris Bennett  
KRISanthemums  
541/571-2172*

[www.KRISanthemums.com](http://www.KRISanthemums.com)