

Malheur County Farm Bureau

Testimony

Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction

February 20, 2019

Malheur County Farm Bureau Opposes HB 2020

Malheur County Farm Bureau opposes HB 2020 as drafted. As a reference, Malheur County Farm Bureau is the grassroots organization of the Oregon Farm Bureau Federation (OFB). Malheur County Farm Bureau represents nearly 230 farm families in Malheur County.

Malheur County is a very diverse county in Oregon. Due to our location and climate with access to water, we can grow many different commodities that many other counties cannot. Many row crops such as onions, sugar beets, potatoes, corn, wheat alfalfa and many other seed crops are grown in the region. Along with crops we have feedlots, dairies, and working cattle ranches. Malheur County is a very rural and proud county of our grassroots heritage.

Malheur County farmers and ranchers would be directly and negatively impacted if the carbon reduction cap and trade bill were passed. Fuel prices and natural gas prices would rise making it even harder for already meager commodity prices to keep many in business. It would increase prices on all products dealing with ag not just fuel and natural gas but chemicals, fertilizers, seed, equipment, etc. It would hurt struggling onion sheds and seed companies who primarily use natural gas to dry crops to cure them before storing them.

Malheur County businesses would also be negatively impacted with increasing costs on all goods delivered to the area or having to raise prices on commodities and products to stay in business or risk closing their doors. We struggle to bring businesses to the area already and having a carbon reduction tax would hurt our struggling rural economy even further. Some businesses wouldn't be able to stay competitive anymore and would have to close their doors and lay off skilled employees which would negatively impact Malheur County.

Malheur County Farm Bureau opposes HB 202 as drafted. Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical issue. For more information, please contact Drew Cruickshank Malheur County Farm Bureau President crui2957@outlook.com or Jonathan Sandau with Oregon Farm Bureau at sandau@oregonfb.org