



City of Ontario
Office of the City Manager
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February 25, 2019

Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction

Co-Chair Dembrow, Co-Chair Power, and Honorable Committee Members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction,

Thank you for providing this opportunity for our Eastern Oregon Community to be heard on this issue. The Ontario City Council requested that I speak on their behalf at this public hearing to implore you to not impose this carbon Cap and Trade Bill on Malheur County without studying the potentially devastating impacts it may have on our key businesses.

I want to tell you about a bridge. It's US Highway 30, or as it is called on the Oregon Side, Idaho Avenue. It's about 1,000 feet long. It's all that separates us from a completely different economic world, a tale of two cities. Ontario is on the one side and Fruitland, Idaho is on the other.

We don't mean to always be the exception; however we have a very different environment in Ontario and Malheur County, Oregon. Industry has every reason to move across the 1,000 foot bridge to Idaho and this legislation just may be the tipping point.

Our city gets electricity from Idaho Power. Because of Oregon's green tax, our businesses and residents pay an additional 2% green energy tax on this side of the bridge. We pay a higher income tax on this side of the bridge. Our businesses pay a higher minimum wage on this side of the bridge. Our property taxes are higher on this side of the bridge.

Ontario, Oregon has long been the center of this community separated only by the bridge. That center has gradually shifted towards Idaho as the benefits of the whole area have remained unchanged, but the disadvantages of Oregon have increased. We have a large employer of over 500 jobs who will be burdened with paying extra costs for energy consumption if this bill is enacted, who can avoid that by moving across the bridge. Two truck stops on this side of the bridge will be jeopardized by this bill.

We respect the goals the State of Oregon is trying to accomplish with respect to the environment. The Ontario City Council; however, has respectfully requested that the impact on this part of the state be studied before applying a state-wide solution to all of Oregon. If the state must move forward on this environmental bill, please consider allowing an exception for Malheur County, at least until the impacts can be understood. A bridge of 1,000 feet can make a world of difference for a community like Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Adam J. Brown', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam J. Brown
City Manager

CC: Ontario City Council