

CROOK - WHEELER COUNTY Farm Bureau

498 S.E. Lynn Blvd. Prineville, Or. 97754

Testimony Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction

February 20, 2019
Crook-Wheeler County Farm Bureau Opposes HB 2020

Crook-Wheeler County Farm Bureau opposes HB 2020 as drafted. Crook and Wheeler Counties are rural Oregon counties and many of our house holds, farms and ranches would be adversely affected by HB 2020. Oregon's top environmental protector, the Director of the Department of Environment, in public testimony stated that the impact of HB 2020 would be minuscule in reducing carbon concentrations in the atmosphere and Oregon's top climatologist said the outcome would be immeasurable. Both of these individuals have been active in the world of climate change debate. Why would the Oregon Legislature burden it's citizens with significant financial and economic impact for no measurable benefit?

Most of our households, farms and ranches are in remote locations making travel a must. We have beautiful land scapes and take pride in the way we have preserved our land for the ability to farm and ranch today and in the future. Making sure that we have left the land, water and air as good or better than the day we started taking care of it. Our farmers have taken part in watershed improvement, farming practices that encourage carbon sequestration, and healthy forest planning. We believe agriculture is a solution to sustaining and improving our environment.

We as farmers and ranchers are being proactive, using measures to increase efficiencies and manage our resources well. HB 2020 punishes those farmers and ranchers who have taken proactive measures and discourage future investments in technology. The costs added to each farm puts a burden that will not allow new innovation and will eliminate a huge number of family farms. The \$2000 to \$5000 increase in energy cost alone will make it impossible to break even in this global economy.

HB 2020 will drive manufacturing and processing industries, which we rely on, out of Oregon because of the costs incurred. This will further increase our costs of transportation. From recent history we know what the high cost of energy, especially fuel, did to put our state and country into a recession. People were unable to buy our products and prices were low for our commodities.

Crook-Wheeler County Farm Bureau opposes HB 2020 as drafted. Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical issue.