

Dear Legislators,

Regarding HB 2020: Naysayers will drag out arguments about the cost to the everyday person who will be hit regressively by this bill. In my research, that evidence does not stand up to scrutiny.

In the end all will benefit from a cleaner environment at a time when to not act on this converts to much more dire consequences from a degraded environment in the coming 20 -50 years. That evidence is becoming more clear everyday.

When California's Cap and Trade came into full effect (in 2012) gasoline prices fell. This demonstrates that fuel prices are under a wide array of price influences and an emissions cap is not the critical factor. Electricity prices in the nine eastern Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) states has fallen 6% since their cap and trade was imposed while prices have raised 6% from other states - so the net price benefit is 12%. The GDP of California (both overall and per capita) has risen while GHG emissions have fallen. Economic growth in the nine Eastern states (RGGI states) who adopted a cap and trade rose 29.7% from 2008 - 2016 even as CO2 emissions fell 33%.

The special interests who favor the status quo of accelerating fossil fuel use, accelerating greenhouse gas emissions, and accelerating global warming have successfully spread their campaign of disinformation and fear-mongering. This has persuaded concerned Oregonians who have not read the proposal and do not know what has happened in other states with cap and trade to believe that their very livelihoods and lives are in jeopardy. This simply is not true.

As the proponents of HB2020 spoke, I heard heartfelt concerns for future generations should decisive steps to reduce greenhouse emission not be take now. The Bill is designed to ease our transition into clean renewable energy justly and generously. The Investment components of HB2020 are designed precisely to stimulate green jobs.

The reality of our perilous situation has been kicked down the road long enough. It is time we Oregonians act swiftly with courage, creativity and compassion in a unified 'can do' spirit like we have done in the past as Americans when we decided to go to the moon or fight in WW2. We won both and we will win again at this as we embrace our mutual concerns and work together to secure a healthy and livable Earth for all to come.

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