

2/28/19

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CARBON REDUCTION

CRAIG NEHER
REGISTERED OREGON VOTER
PETRLOUEM BULK PLANT MANAGER
BURNS, OREGON

Dear Joint Committee,

I highly oppose the current plan of action being sought. Current planning on legislating a house bill that would penalize Oregonians that do not choose alternative fuels or electric cars for their choice of transportation, home heating, or for commercial or agricultural use seems to be a tax, based on inaccurate information and hidden in a "green agenda".

This would be very challenging for our industry and, more than that extremely hard on Oregon working families, especially in Rural communities like Harney County. Our customers include moms and dads driving to work, businesses needing to move goods and services throughout our communities and Farmers and Ranchers caring for cattle and crops, helping provide food for our state and income for our economy. For most in Rural Oregon, driving isn't just a privilege, it's a necessity. And in most areas of our state, electrification is not an option.

We proud of what we do. We supply energy to our communities in Harney County safely and efficiently. We keep people warm in the winter, have a significant impact on food production, commerce, emergency service transportation, and provide employment to 14 full time employees, and those families would be in jeopardy if this legislation passes. We are doing our share, and we are doing it responsibly.

Cap-and-Trade adds tremendous cost to access daily needs without providing any alternative path for compliance in the fuels sector. Cap-and-trade is specifically designed to reduce and eventually remove all fossil fuels from the transportation sector by making them increasingly expensive. More specifically, cap-and-trade means that drivers or businesses of cars and trucks who rely on fuel for their everyday needs will see costs increases. Increases that many families and business cannot afford.

Thank you in advance for fighting for what is best for the people, and not allowing a cap and trade carbon tax cripple our rural communities, cost jobs to our families, and hobble our abilities to compete as a Oregon business.