



February 27, 2019

Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction  
State of Oregon Legislature  
Oregon State Capital  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Public Testimony in opposition to HB 2020

Co-Chair Dembrow, Co-Chair Power and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ryan Neal and I am the Executive Director of the Port of Morrow, located in Boardman, Oregon. On behalf of the Port, I would like to submit the following comments on House Bill 2020.

First, by way of context, I think it's important to state that Port's missions are to increase jobs, increase assessed values, increase wages, and create a better quality of life for our citizens.

The Port of Morrow is the second largest port in the State of Oregon and is a key driver in the economy of Morrow County and the State of Oregon.

Port related businesses contribute nearly \$2.8 billion in annual output, 8,400 jobs and over \$118 million in State and local tax payments each year. While we are a small county with a population just under 12,000 people, we have the third highest GDP per capita in the state.

We are located upriver with a farming and natural resource-based economy. We have a strong value-added agricultural base and recently had over \$3 billion in new construction including value-added food processing plants and data centers.

Second, I would like to point out that Morrow County leads the State of Oregon in Clean energy jobs density with more than 28 jobs per 1000 residents. Portland General Electric owns a coal-fired plant scheduled for shut down next year. That eliminates over 100 good, family waged jobs from our county. Umatilla Electric Coop buys more than 90 percent of its electricity wholesale from Bonneville Power Administration's hydro system which is a carbon-free source of power. The citizens of Morrow County are doing their part to reduce emissions.

HB 2020 is not good for the businesses or citizens in Morrow County or any other rural area in the state. Businesses in Morrow County would greatly suffer from this bill. Increased cost of power would be a deterrent to doing business in the State of Oregon. I would caution that future business development looking at locating in Oregon could easily be swayed to another state because of this added cost of doing business burden. This cap and trade legislation will also increase the cost of living for citizens with increased fuel and natural gas rates. Rural counties cannot afford this.

I encourage you to not move this bill forward until we can find a solution that will work for industry. It must be less invasive to their operations and encourage continued investment while trying to solve this important issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Ryan Neal  
Executive Director

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