



JOINT COMMITTEE ON CARBON REDUCTION

February 15th, 2019

Marion County Farm Bureau Opposes HB 2020

Marion County Farm Bureau opposes HB 2020 as drafted. As a reference, the Marion County Farm Bureau is the grassroots organization of the Oregon Farm Bureau Federation (OFB). Marion County Farm Bureau represents nearly 605 farm families in Marion County.

Marion County is the number one agricultural producing county in Oregon. With over 200 different crops grown in Marion County, we have the largest number of family farms represented in our state. Marion County is one of the most beautiful places in our great state with many environmental protections already in place. Farmers are proven great stewards of our environment. Farmers are already facing a growing number of pressures and nearly insurmountable challenges. Please let us not add another.

HB 2020 is detrimental to many family farms in our county. With the known fact that fuel prices will be rising, natural gas and power prices are increasing. Our farms already have very slim margins. With the increase in inputs to our farms, this is going to be another nail in the coffin for family farms in Oregon. We as farmers are price takers who absorb rather than pass the rising costs of production onto our customers as the big energy companies have already stated that they will do. With the global economy, our customers have so many options to purchase from around the world. When these costs are added to our inputs, we are unable to compete with others the market.

Marion County employs a large number of workers to fill the jobs that are needed to harvest our crops. These workers are all community members that live in Marion County. This policy will have unintended consequences that could lead farms to cut back on operations costs or change the specialty crops grown. We are concerned at the possibility that these adverse impacts could trickle down to employees or their families who are a part of our community.

Marion County Farm Bureau opposes HB 2020 as drafted. Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical issue. For more information, please contact Dylan Wells, Marion County Farm Bureau President or Jonathan Sandau with Oregon Farm Bureau at sandau@oregonfb.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dylan Wells'.

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