

HB 2020 proposal shows a lack of fiduciary responsibility and no sound economic reasoning. Oregonians have voted out the sales tax repeatedly do to the impact that it will have on those that can least afford the extra money to purchase basics. Groups of Oregon activist have tried many ways to introduce a sales tax a little at a time and have been voted down. This is a retaliatory bill to punish Oregonians who oppose increased taxes.

Oregon needs to be responsible with the monies it is already given by the tax payers in good faith that it will be fiduciary responsible and run the government and needed state offices efficiently and effectively, yet they refuse to do so. This is just another tax, a much higher and much more punitive tax presented as a “green bill”.

This bill does not outline the “green jobs” that it will create for Oregonians. I gather this is because you will just gather the money and we can wait on the promised jobs until you figure out how you will solve the massive unemployment problem that your bill created. The ruination of our logging industry and their promised jobs was a humiliating and dehumanizing outcome for our loggers and look at the state of our federal forests now with massive wild fires and loss of life. Shame on you for creating another disaster for our future generations.

Oregonians do so much already to improve the environment such and reduce, reuse, recycle, stream team clean ups, volunteer road crews, adopt a Highway programs, reduce electricity use by shutting off lights, purchasing energy efficient lightbulbs, covering up wall sockets that aren't in use, carpooling to name just a few things. Why are we going to be punished for using less, polluting less and giving more?

HB 2020 is going to demand more if we want to go to work, buy fresh fruits or vegetables from one of our local farms. We won't have many small farms left and what we do have will be too expensive for most of us to be able to afford. So, will your answer be there to increase food stamps for those you forced on them? How about those who can't afford already expensive heating and lighting needs? Are you going to make everyone pay for an energy share program so that not only are you punishing us with higher tax on fuel but you are going to make us pay for those who can't survive under the crippling weight of supporting programs that under HB2020 will fall on the shoulders of the working class like an avalanche in the alps.

Oregonians as communities are the ones that are making this state a better place to live, not some House Bill that will get the signers their 15 minutes of fame and then they can waltz away saying look what I did. Oregonians are the ones that live here (myself for several generations back) work here, play here and clean up our communities.

Southern Oregon has much to offer and contributes to the coffers of the State of Oregon treasury and now we are to be punished, our orchards unable to sustain and our fames unable to grow. The claim for green jobs is a farce and if there are any, they will be far and few between and will have an impact on southern Oregon, the only impact it will have on Southern Oregon is financial devastation.

But then again, isn't that how a corrupt government works? Keep the peasants to hungry that they are grateful for a crust of bread?

Cynthia Jones (Veteran)

Talent Oregon