

I OPPOSE HB 2020!!!

If Oregonians want to believe in, and support, the theory of climate change, that's a right guaranteed by The Constitution. But to legislate a belief based on such theory such as HB2020 is completely inappropriate when there are other equally valid ways to interpret the causes of climate change. It is an opinion, not a proven fact; another interpretation among many ways to explain climate change. Legislating an opinion is not the way. It is not the American way or the purpose of government to take freedom from the people, no matter how well-intentioned. Its purpose is to ensure freedom. It is arrogant to write a bill that affects all Oregonians that is based on a theory that can easily be challenged by other data that is just as valid but simply isn't part of the dominant discourse. I'm sure this bill reflects your belief in the science you have at your disposal and no doubt supports the notion of climate change, but a large number of us see this bill as a powergrab and a moneygrab cloaked under the guise of "science." It preys on our natural fears and needs for safety and security and valid concerns for the survival of the earth, its species and inhabitants. Who doesn't want that? Proponents of this bill rightly support the notion and need for the wellbeing of the planet, but this bill may unwittingly, or wittingly, be a wolf in sheep's clothing. On the surface it sounds noble. It attempts to make strides to ensure the health and safety of the environment and create clean energy jobs, but despite its appearance it is economic genocide that will destroy Oregon's economy that is just starting dig out of the effects of the recession that started in 2008. Not only is it economic genocide against Oregonians, such a bill won't even have an effect on the environment. Oregon produces only a quarter of a percent of the carbon on earth. It is a crime and fiduciary failure on the part of legislators to penalize Oregonians for virtually 0% when players like China and India are the most significant contributors to carbon production. Why aren't you focusing on making real change on world scale instead of milking dry the tax payers of Oregon. Why aren't you focusing on the biggest polluters in the Portland area? You can see why this looks suspicious? It's taxation without a just reason and ends up in negative impacts on people just trying make their way in life. No one likes paying taxes, but when tax revenue actually goes toward something that benefits all of us economically, we are more willing to pay. This tax will hurt Oregonians by gouging them even deeper when they have already stepped up to the plate to pay their fair share. If you need revenue, why not just create another lottery, which would be a lot smarter? I'll tell you why. Because a lottery is an elective purchase, not forced, not a penalty, and can't control people's energy use or behavior. This is about power and control of people's behavior and finances. You see it as righteous and good, but it's the same pattern of despotism in history.

I get it. At some point earth's population will be so overgrown that humans will literally consume all of its resources like locusts, but penalizing Oregonians for simply existing is not the American way. It is the rudimentary genesis of totalitarianism which always starts out with the best of intentions and the common good of the people in mind. You say this is not what you have planned but that's what government always says and you are the government for us.

Aside from the fact that it's just plain wrong to saddle Oregonians with a tyrannical tax, there is skepticism as to whether the projected revenue from this bill will be honestly handled as there does not appear to be any real upfront accounting of how it will really be used. Trucking and other uses of energy is the very means of how we all gets goods and supplies. Literally everything you buy was trucked from somewhere and consumers had to pay the cost of fuel. It's completely unfair to tax the industries we rely on to get goods, whether liberal or conservative. And maybe that's why this seems so lucrative: take advantage of businesses that have to function so that Oregonians, including legislators, can function on a daily basis just to live, stay warm, stay cool, get goods. Such industries are not a luxury or a choice; without them our infrastructure will fail; seems a lot like

extortion to tax people for things they can't live without. It'd be different if it was a sin tax. If 60% of the \$550 million is supposed be used for highways and roads, where does the other \$220 million go? This bill cannot be a means to correct your fiscal irresponsibility and mistakes such as the PERS debacle that you are continuing to ignore. It won't go away and has to be dealt with, not continued avoidance on your part as a Democrat legislature. Two wrongs don't make a right. Penalizing Oregonians simply for the right to exist penalizes the very tax payers who already foot the bill for Oregon's budget, and you hope to saddle them with more. You as legislators will in effect be shooting yourselves, and us as tax payers, in the feet—and we WILL remember it. This bill will cripple the ability of Oregonians to support the state we love, and have been, for the most part, willing to support through the taxes we already pay. Beware. By requiring even more than we are already giving, you are encroaching the limits of what we will tolerate and this will backfire on you.

We elected you into office to serve us, not use us to pay for debts and fund projects that don't help anyone, and you do it without our consent.

I staunchly disagree with government support of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that bully and influence through “consensus.” These organizations are just that and nothing else. They are not created by the people through government. Their leadership has no elected officials that I, nor anyone else, elected. It is fraudulent to favor with support, and fund these organizations, with tax payer money when they do not represent the people. They use official and nice sounding names, but they are essentially special interest groups who just lobby in a different way, and those of you who support them are in collusion.

You know that natural gas and other forms of energy being targeted are not going anywhere. Energy consumption will not only continue and will increase in the coming years, especially natural gas. You also know that humans rarely change their behavior even when faced with negative outcomes. This bill capitalizes on, and takes advantage of, perpetual human needs, weaknesses and their habitual behaviors. You take advantage of the fact that people resist change and use it as a way to extort them. People need to stay warm, cool, enjoy life, and run their businesses, which guarantees revenue to be created by taxation of human needs; taxation for simply being born. This bill and any others like it do not seek to modify human behavior for the better because you know energy consumptions will continue. Its purpose is to raise money. Don't overlook the unforeseen, or ignored, consequences of sabotaging our state's ability to garner the taxes it already collects. If you need revenue to pay for Oregon's expenses and programs beyond the taxes already collected, don't do it by crippling Oregon's tax collecting system that currently works well. You can only expect tax payers to do so much. Stay with the plan that, though disliked, isn't broken. People will put up with paying taxes as long you continue to dangle the illusionary carrot of hope in front of them, as long as they believe they will get something in return. But HB 2020 will actually steals the carrot of hope from the typical tax payer and takes tax payer frustration and disappointment to a completely different level out of the realm of business as usual and the status quo. As I said, this bill represents the beginning of a legislative transition that marks the grab for power like none other except for gun controls.

Though there have been many smaller steps to secure progressive control of the state for the past few decades, HB2020 represents the boldest powergrab from the average Oregonian into the hands of few in liberal counties; the hands of a few Democrat legislators. I know that you mean well and believe you are investing in the good of the people, but it is that kind of self-righteous reasoning that has been the downfall of well-intentioned endeavors and has befallen both liberals and conservatives. Aside from the slow but steady progression of liberal agendas over the last few decades it is important for you to know that we also know that this bill actually

represents the first significant shift in assuming power over Oregonians. We see this as the first major transition from disappearing freedoms to complete loss of freedoms and more control than ever, and the beginning of heavy oppression. The oppression you sought to alleviate through social and environmental justice is that the same oppression you now are about to place upon us. It is hypocrisy and is always the outcome of the self-righteousness: the endeavor to free others is the leads to enslavement.

I implore you as representation of the people of Oregon. You may win in passing this bill, but what good is a technical win for your party through a supermajority of votes when the majority of Oregonians will dig in, push back and fight the likes of never before, and target you with sharp criticism for removing more of their freedoms. It does no good to pass such a bill when there will be social and financial rebellion against it. You can't afford that for the sake of a meaningless victory. For decades Oregonians have been asleep and just along for the ride; didn't see a need to become overly political. Things seemed safe enough. But while we were just trying to make a living and raise our families a silent, slow movement has been gaining political momentum and power. But with attempts to legislate liberal agendas you are awakening a sleeping giant that, though might have been ignorant to the plan up to now, is stirring from its slumber. In your efforts to secretly, and openly, take our power you openly declare war on the rest of Oregonians who disagree with being controlled and overly taxed. And many are up to the challenge of waging political war right back through their voting power and resistance. Many Oregonians as well as American citizens are coming out of their comas and it will be upon liberal legislators they will focus their anger and frustration. Liberal Oregonians may have elected you into office, but conservatives have the ability to make your lives miserable if you push them too far.

I get it. I was educated in a liberal educational system and fully understand where liberals are coming from and why they are concerned about the future, so are conservatives. I fully understand that the only hope that liberals have of moving things in a direction that seems right to them is to take control of government, rewrite its laws and policies to fulfill lofty liberal goals. You think you can push these agendas through the legislature because you have a majority but you're missing the point. Power is not assumed in a building or with more votes. Real power is in the freedom of the people. You can try to take it, but it is something that will not be given up easily without a fight that will vex your efforts to dominate the people of Oregon. RLN