

Thank you for the opportunity to speak into the record of HB2020. As legislators you have been given the high honor of being chosen to lead in the best country in the world. Not only is that a high honor but a high responsibility as well. We as the citizens of the Great State of Oregon have entrusted you with the well-being and destiny of our home.

Many of us who have lived in rural Oregon our whole lives have enjoyed many benefits of that privilege. We have had trials as well. For us it was when the forest industry was devastated by a very loud and relentless minority. Many individuals, businesses, and entire communities were reduced to a mere shadow of what they had been, and their futures became bleak and hopeless.

The fires we have witnessed over the past several years are the result of poor forest management and refusal to allow the forests to be used for what they were created for: To provide the livelihoods for those individuals, businesses and communities, as well as the revenue base to make our state an affordable place to live and raise our families.

All of this has escalated from the "saving of the spotted owl" to now "saving the planet," neither of which need our help. The loud voices that continue to scream doom and gloom are without substantial science to back up their agenda-driven claims. They rely upon computer models to back up/create their hysteria. The computer models they use, (remember the old saying "garbage in/garbage out") and the deceived opinions they hold are destined to continue to destroy everything they come into contact with. Unless someone says enough is enough and brings common sense back to government.

Please, for the sake of the State of Oregon and the people who live here, don't fall prey to an agenda that has no merit. Reject the entire premise of HB2020 and get on with some of the real issues that are nipping at our heels like the out-of-control PERS. that was created by your predecessors.

Dan Casad