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Comments to Committee proposing SB ~~2005~~ – The Carbon Cap and Trade Bill

For decades now, I've made my own tiny contributions to improving the world I know. As a student and a teacher of Environmental Issues since the early '90's, I've not only learned as much as I can about these issues, but also put solutions into practice, as I'm able. I have converted my home to energy efficiency through purchases and installations of better doors, windows, insulation, heat systems: on and on. I've converted to Organic methods of farming on my small 2 acre piece of ground. I supported the removal of Trojan nuclear power plant, the implementation of natural gas fuels for bus systems and fleet vehicles. I purchase Blue Sky electricity at higher rates. I am in support of doing what we reasonably can to improve our world. What I Don't support, is Senate Bill ~~2005~~. 1070

Besides violating the Oregon State Constitution in at least two ways, this bill is flawed and punitive in a vast number of other ways. These punishments are actually too numerous to even attempt to list and many are not yet even predictable. Like other legislation in recent history, you would have to pass it to begin to understand what's in it.

It seeks to punish the citizens of Oregon for simply living, breathing, working and playing in this State. I find it reprehensible and will work diligently, visibly and vocally to prevent its passage and implementation.

I came here today to provide facts relating to the impacts of this punishment on my life, my neighbors, friends, family, and the lives of all the impoverished people who try to get by in our little corner of the State and the World. I realized, however, that the few minutes I have could not do justice to that. So I created a scenario for the members of this committee that might just help you to understand our situation and how we feel about it.

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(Choose one by name-) – It's 1990. You are in a room, running on a treadmill. That treadmill represents your life. You are working, breathing hard, trying to keep up. You breathe in oxygen and breathe out CO₂. You have to eat and drink to stay alive while keeping up the pace. You use energy, the treadmill uses energy, the food and water you consume uses energy, even the room you're in took energy to build and operate.

Fast forward to 2025- just 6 years from today.

You are going to have to pay more for all the resources you use now, just to stay alive. These increases are not market driven, nor reasonable. You see, your State Government has imposed a new game on you. It's called 'Cap and Trade'. They created the game, they run the game, and you have no choice but to play the game, if you want to remain in Oregon. Here's how that game works:

- They are going to base all their decisions about how much CO₂ you breathe out on how much you were breathing out in 1990.
- They are going to add another treadmill to the room and put another person on that treadmill. You see, the population of Oregon has now doubled. You- (pick one), are that other person.
- Now the fun starts. This year, we are going to require that the two of you together reduce your CO₂ output by 20% - from the amount one of you produced in 1990. That means either you are going to have to take turns breathing, or you are going to both have to reduce your 1990 output by 40%, because there's two of you now. How does that sound to you? Fair? Draconian?
- But wait! The game doesn't end there. By 2050, you will have to reduce your total output by 80%!! And it's likely, based on population growth rates, that there will be ANOTHER PERSON IN THE ROOM! Let that sink in.

HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY SUCCEED AT THIS GAME? Is there a plan in place to make this happen? Do the resources or technologies exist that could make this happen? Resoundingly,, NO. They do not yet exist.

So, you will set the game up knowing we will likely fail, you will punish us with massive taxes for existing here, and you will carve out exceptions for those you deem too important to lose to out-migration. Well, ladies and gentlemen, leaving the game is in fact a choice for those of us who live here now, and refuse to play. I'm retiring soon, with a small PERS pension and savings. I can sell my house, take my resources and skills and knowledge, and move elsewhere, where the government actually cares about the people it's supposed to serve.

Thank you for listening.