

To Co-Chairs Dembrow and Power and members of the committee regarding HB 2020

This proposed legislation is both personal and punitive to my person, my family, our community and our state.

It exercises a tax, in the form of an increase on rates for natural gas which will result in direct, substantial costs to all the above. It also raises our gas taxes to the point that it places Oregon in the absurd role of collecting the third highest fuels tax rates in the country.

Needless to say, such increases in the business sector can do only two things. They will, first and foremost, raise the cost of production in every sector of the business community. Is it not logical to assume that those entities will pass those increases on to the consumer? Those increases will also be passed on to interstate customers, who, in an equally logical manner, find other suppliers...a lose/lose scenario by any measure.

HB 2020 places Oregon in the vanguard of an imagined world-wide assault on climate change. If successful to its extreme goals, this bill would accomplish deterring .14% of the carbon emissions for the entire planet. For this, we would undermine our state's economy, visit unjust financial penalties on the common citizen, and sacrifice for many retirees, the modest comforts of a well earned lifestyle.

Finally, and devoid of emotion, I offer the logic of no less a distinguished scholar than the Director of Oregon State University's "Climate Change Research Institute" who has testified to your body that a cap and trade program in Oregon would "Do almost nothing to impact global change".

Thank you for your considered attention.


Garth Harrington

3291 Miller Court

Medford, OR 97504