

**Comments in Opposition to House Bill 2020
Medford, Oregon
02/23/19**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today, My name is Hank Hohenstein, 161 Osprey Vista, Shady Cove. I am a member of the Shady Cove City Council. We are faced with a plethora of very serious fiscal issues: reducing public safety services; finding other sources of revenue; employee lay-offs or reduced work hours; increasing water and/or sewer fees to mention a few.

The implementation of HB 2020 is something we have not even begun to consider in our budgetary process. I am confident that most other cities and counties in Oregon are faced with the same challenges. The costs attached to HB 2020 are the most regressive I have ever seen. They fall most heavily on the poor and those unable to enter or re-enter the work force. Shady Cove has 20.8% of its population living below the poverty line; 25.7% are above 65 years of age; our median age is 55; the disability rate among poor males is 27.6% and 57.6% of the poor are renters.

Here are some indications of the percentage of folks living below the poverty line in SoOr: Jackson County 18%, Phoenix 25.8%, Medford 21.4%, Rogue River 21%, Talent 20.3%, White City 19.6%, Ashland 19.1%, Eagle Point 17%, Gold Hill 14.4%, Central Point 12.4%, and Jacksonville 4.7%. We are not a Bull Mountain. Looking at our neighboring counties we find Josephine County 19.5% and Klamath and Douglas Counties at 18.6%. This regressive legislation will catastrophically fall on nearly one person in five and have absolutely no positive impact on their quality of life. In fact it will degrade their quality of life.

If the legislature wants to truly impact quality of life issues, quality of the environment issues and economic well-being of all citizens they would put their efforts in solving the wildfire issue in western Oregon.

I suggest you rename this bill the Alpo Bill 2020 and reject it post haste. Thank you.

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Addendum
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A more humane way to impact increasing carbon levels in Oregon is through the control of wildfires. Currently 50 communities are at risk of total destruction due to catastrophic wildfires such as was seen in Paradise, CA this past summer.

For more than 100 days this past summer every community in Jackson County was choked with smoke. This burden fell most heavily on the young, elderly and those with pulmonary and cardiac conditions. Those living below the poverty line are most devastated because they are least likely to be able to escape to smoke free areas.

Time, effort and money spent on reducing fuel loads in our forest lands will pay greater dividends in reducing carbon loads in the atmosphere and provide a healthier climate for residents across all economic spectrums the HB 2020.

Table 2. The 50 communities in Oregon with greatest cumulative housing-unit exposure to wildfire. The “mean of exposed housing units” rank indicates the mean (typical) burn probability of housing units within each community.

Community Exposure Ranking	Community Name	Total number of housing units exposed to wildfire	Estimated mean annual number of housing units visited by wildfire	Mean annual burn probability	Burn probability rank
1	Merlin	4,628	34.2	0.0074	21
2	Redwood	4,451	28.9	0.0065	29
3	Medford	29,340	26.3	0.0009	128
4	Bend	41,321	23.4	0.0006	145
5	Warm Springs	1,362	23.0	0.0169	1
6	Eagle Point	4,443	21.3	0.0048	45
7	Redmond	13,005	21.3	0.0016	103
8	Grants Pass	14,718	20.6	0.0014	108
9	Ashland	9,853	19.5	0.0020	90
10	Prineville	9,285	17.7	0.0019	92
11	New Hope	2,616	17.7	0.0067	25
12	Terrebonne	3,353	16.6	0.0050	43
13	Williams	1,481	15.4	0.0104	9
14	Cave Junction	2,049	15.2	0.0074	20
15	Wimer	1,617	14.8	0.0091	13
16	Gold Hill	2,576	14.8	0.0057	35
17	Chenoweth	1,650	14.8	0.0090	15
18	Talent	4,138	12.5	0.0030	71
19	Central Point	6,282	12.4	0.0020	91
20	Sisters	3,336	11.3	0.0034	67
21	Tumalo	3,119	11.2	0.0036	62
22	Selma	1,055	10.1	0.0096	12
23	Jacksonville	2,132	10.1	0.0047	47
24	Rogue River	2,189	10.1	0.0046	49
25	Klamath Falls	12,620	9.9	0.0008	134
26	Madras	4,408	9.9	0.0022	82
27	Ruch	1,463	9.7	0.0067	26
28	Phoenix	3,346	9.5	0.0028	75
29	White City	4,186	9.4	0.0022	83
30	Ontario	6,086	8.8	0.0015	106
31	Glendale	1,356	8.8	0.0065	28
32	Shady Cove	1,804	8.6	0.0048	46
33	Burns	1,778	7.9	0.0044	51
34	La Pine	6,357	6.7	0.0011	120
35	Eagle Crest	1,565	6.6	0.0042	53
36	Takilma	532	6.0	0.0112	8
37	The Dalles	6,032	5.0	0.0008	132
38	Odell	2,239	5.0	0.0022	84
39	Halfway	619	4.9	0.0079	16
40	La Grande	5,426	4.1	0.0008	138
41	Foots Creek	683	4.1	0.0060	31
42	Culver	1,207	3.9	0.0033	69
43	Trail	763	3.9	0.0052	41
44	Mount Hood	664	3.8	0.0058	34
45	Elgin	997	3.5	0.0036	63
46	Mitchell	310	3.5	0.0114	7
47	Hines	970	3.4	0.0035	65
48	Butte Falls	560	3.3	0.0059	33
49	Prairie City	650	3.3	0.0050	21
50	Pendleton	6,215	3.2	0.0005	29