

To: Co-chairs Dembrow and Power and Members of the Committee  
Re: House Bill 2020: Cap and Trade  
Dt: February 22, 2019

Hello,

My name is John W. Mount. I live and work in Ashland, Oregon. I am writing on my own behalf.

I provide design and consulting services for software developers and I work from my home office. I am writing this to tell you I DO NOT CONSENT TO THE OREGON 2019 HB 2020.

No matter what we call it in practice, a cap and trade regime will simply be a tax on economic activity on everyone and every business in Oregon. There is NO reason to believe it will have ANY impact on climate now or at any time in the future. We have certainty that it will do nothing to mitigate the largest source of carbon emitted in the state from forest fires.

Consequently, I believe a vote for HB 2020 puts you in violation of your fiduciary responsibilities to your constituents and residents of the state.

In particular it is irresponsible to propose to spend significant funds raised by punitive taxes on natural gas consumers and use those funds to support unreliable energy sources such as wind and solar. No country in the world has succeeded at this, not even the most advanced adopters in the EU (Germany, Denmark and the UK) nor any of the states of Australia where this has been attempted. In all of these places wind and solar have failed to achieve any of the benefits claimed for them. They are less reliable than current infrastructure. They are far more expensive. You will not be heroes who find the magic wand to change this very visible truth. Let's not follow these countries into the dark and the cold.

In Germany and South Australia in particular we have undisputed evidence of the failure of measures such as are proposed in HB 2020.

I hope you will turn your attention instead to the near and present danger to the health and welfare of everyone in the state posed by BLM policy to let wildfires burn for months at a time. Not to do so also places residences of Ashland, for one location, in a disadvantaged position. In my case, because I live and work here, it is almost impossible for me to escape from suffering continual exposure to smoke from fires on BLM lands. Last summer there were weeks when going outdoors for any purpose was a risk to one's health. This is a REAL problem. To ignore it, and speculate with unreliable technologies that others have proven are unreliable instead, constitutes environmental injustice.

I hope you will consider the protests you are getting from those many interests and citizens to this awful HB 2020.

Respectfully,



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