

Mike & Pat Scupien
1019 Pumpkin Ridge
Eagle Point OR 97524

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To: Co-Chairs Dembrow and Power and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mike Scupien. I am a retired mechanical engineer currently living in the Rogue Valley.

I strongly object to the Oregon 2019 HB2020.

The idea of saving the planet from greenhouse gasses by having Oregon impose a tax on carbon dioxide emissions is not rational. Oregon's current contribution to greenhouse gasses is about 65 million metric tons, or 1.23% of the U.S. total. If this effort is successful, (reduce to 10% less than 1990 level, or 49.5 Mtons per Oregon DEQ) the reduction would be 0.29% of current U.S. levels. Is this a reasonable endeavor? A reduction of approximately a quarter of 1 per cent? That alone should imply this is not a wise decision. Empty the ocean one tea spoon at a time. Valiant, but worthless.

To find out the cost / benefit relationship, follow the money. Who pays the tax? Everyone does, in the form of higher fuel costs for individuals and especially for farmers and industry. Will increasing the cost of gas and electricity hurt? Yes! **It will hurt me as a retiree, who lives on a fixed income.** Easy solution – go live in a different state! Why should I be punished for living in this state?

For farmers and industry that must make a profit to stay in business, what will their choices be? Raise the price of their products and be less competitive in the market place? Reduce profit to zero? Or move out of state? **Why should commerce be punished for trying to do business in Oregon?** This bill will 'cost' the state good people and good businesses.

Who benefits? The State gets a whole new pot of money. It is to be distributed through the new "Climate Investment Fund" – in other words, the State gets to pick and choose winners of the **Greenhouse Gas Lottery**. What will Southern Oregon receive? Can we trust Salem to be fair to us?

What about the cost to the tax payer for this new bureaucracy? Yes, the bill creates new jobs: **NEW STATE JOBS** to administer and lord over us. To a nail, the solution to every problem is a hammer. To a 'lawmaker', the solution is another law. Your laws (taxes) are killing us!

Southern Oregon has its own greenhouse gas problem – called forest fires! Who gets the carbon tax bill for next fire season! We are literally sick and dying down here and Salem wants to tax our carbon? *Don't confuse bad forest mgt w/ climate change.*

I understand the Emergency clause is tied to this bill. That is a farce – a tool to limit opposition. The government should be about doing for the people, not to people. Who are you working for?

I used to be proud to be an Oregonian. Oregon's government is changing that. Now it is embarrassing to say where I live.

Thank you

Mike Scupien
Mike and Pat Scupien

Patricia Scupien