

OrCAN

Oregon Climate & Agriculture Network

Testimony to the Joint Carbon Reduction Committee In support of the Carbon Reduction Act, HB 2020

March 1, 2019

Co-chairs Dembrow and Power and Members of the Committee:

Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network represents over 250 agricultural stakeholders who want to see strong climate policy and recognize that Oregon agriculture can and should be part of the solution. We strongly support HB 2020.

Climate change exposes farms and crops to smoke, extreme and unpredictable temperatures, droughts and floods.

- In Eastern Oregon last winter extreme weather caused nearly \$100 million in damage to onion storage and packing facilities.
- In Southern Oregon last summer 6 weeks of smoke meant extremely low sales at the farmers market, threatening the viability of farms in the Rogue Valley.
- Farmworkers in Oregon labor in unsafe conditions including heavy smoke and extreme heat.

Cap-and-Invest is a win for the environment *and* the economy!

The agriculture economy in California has doubled in size in the last decade with all their environmental protections in place, including cap-and-invest. It went from less than \$10 billion in 2006 (AB 32 passes) to more than \$20 billion in 2017 (the latest number available).

Source: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/statistics/PDFs/2017AgExports.pdf>

Revenue will be invested in projects in our communities that reduce and sequester greenhouse gas emissions. Farmers can benefit from incentives for climate-friendly practices such as:

- reducing energy use (through more energy efficient irrigation for example);
- utilizing renewables (through installation of solar arrays and irrigation turbines that generate energy); and
- by adopting practices that sequester carbon in the soil (such as cover cropping or no till practices).

And of course, farmers will benefit from a more stable climate.

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