

There is no such thing as a free market. There are winners and losers created by any economic system. So we need to decide- what is the role of government in creating the best economy possible. Our economic structure throughout the industrial age has been flawed. Government has failed to regulate industry and has allowed businesses to pass off the costs of pollution on society, and on future generations.

We have an OPPORTUNITY to create a more sustainable economy through this cap and trade policy.

I own a vegetable farm called Volcano Veggies. We grow the equivalent of 3 acres of lettuce and basil in a 300 sq ft footprint. In this same footprint, we also raise 3000 fish per year. Our certified organic growing method is called aquaponics. It uses 99% LESS water than outdoor farming. Even though we grow with artificial LED lighting, we also use less energy than a typical outdoor farm.

Other farmers have testified that they will struggle to incorporate increased fuel costs. I urge you to hear this concern, but to proceed with passing HB 2020 despite these potential impacts. Innovation will only happen if forced by legislation and regulation. But innovation will happen.

Farmers will only use less energy if FORCED through increased costs. But increased costs will push farmers to use less fuel. Disruption is not always easy, but the future is on the line.

The next generation of agriculture is ready to step in and profit from this opportunity. Over \$200 million was recently invested in a company called Plenty in California. They don't have a clear vision of what they are going to do. But the goal of this company is to be ready to profit from necessary changes in agriculture. Like it or not, climate change will force changes in agriculture.

So the choice is whether we become industry leaders in clean energy, or whether we miss out on this incredible business opportunity.

I do hope that funds could be used to help small businesses invest in order to offset the increased costs. Clearly the goal is not to harm farmers or low income families. So please find a way to offset these hardships as you help Oregon become a leader in climate change policy.

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