

March 2, 2019

My Name is Bruce Corn; I am a farmer from Ontario Oregon. I grow sugar beets, onions, corn and wheat; farming land that has been farmed by my family since 1938. Today, along with several of my community members I have traveled for 4 hours to attend this hearing.

I am very concerned this proposed legislation on carbon will put all of eastern Oregon's farms and ranches at an economic disadvantage to the rest of the country and world with little protection to the environment.

I believe this bill is one with many unintended consequences that those who are bringing it forward really have not considered. My family came to Malheur County at the time irrigation projects were being developed; namely the Owyhee and Malheur projects. These systems were developed in the 1930's and 40's and are gravity flow irrigation projects that use ditches and siphon tubes.

In the last 15 years these antiquated systems have been and are being converted to more efficient systems, mainly drip and sprinkler irrigation. The benefit of efficient systems is the water conservation and water quality which is so very important! These environmentally friendly systems require pressurization. Pressurization requires energy to run pumps. Electricity and diesel pumps are used for these systems. With proposed carbon taxing it has been projected that electricity rates could go up 50% or more. The farm economy margins are thin; we compete in a world market. This legislation will put Oregon Agriculture on an uneven playing field. The conversion to these efficient nonpolluting systems will be slowed. Water quality that is improving yearly will be slowed. As farmers, we are on the front line of conserving and protecting the environment. These proposed, burdensome regulations will put in jeopardy the livelihood of Eastern Oregon. I would hope those entrusted with the governance of the state I love would have common sense prevail and they would reject the carbon tax bill.

I would ask that this committee consider unintended consequences and reject this proposal for the economic and environmental wellbeing of the state of Oregon!