



SNAKE RIVER SUGAR COMPANY

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My name is Dan Corn. I serve on the Board of Directors of Snake River Sugar Company (“*SRSC*”), an Oregon agricultural cooperative headquartered in Boise, Idaho. SRSC is the parent company of The Amalgamated Sugar Company LLC (“*Amalgamated Sugar*”). SRSC has 730 members who grow sugarbeets for Amalgamated Sugar on 182,000 acres located in Idaho, Oregon and Washington. Sixty-two SRSC members live and have farms in Oregon, and approximately 9,600 acres of sugarbeets are grown in Oregon.

Amalgamated Sugar produces 10% of America’s real sugar (approximately 1.2 million tons). Amalgamated Sugar makes brown sugar at its Nyssa, Oregon facility, and stores a significant quantity of sugar at that facility. Amalgamated Sugar employs 70 full time employees at the Nyssa facility.

SRSC and Amalgamated are writing in opposition to the current version of Oregon House Bill 2020. We urge the Oregon Legislature to slow down, to listen to the serious concerns being expressed by rural Oregonians who rely upon the land to make a living, to take the time to get the technical details right, and to abandon the current proposal as unreasonable and unfair to Oregon agriculture.

The current version of HB 2020 will increase fuel prices immediately by \$0.16/gallon, and more over time as the cost of carbon increases. Oregon farmers rely more heavily on fuel than urban Oregonians. It is unfair to saddle Oregon farmers disproportionately with the expensive burden of HB 2020, particularly when the national and local farm economy is struggling to survive in the current agricultural economic downturn. HB 2020 will make it much harder to attract young farmers and new agricultural investment in rural Oregon.

HB 2020 will also drive up gasoline, electricity and natural gas costs for industry generally and for food manufacturers specifically. Eastern Oregon has struggled to capture agricultural investment dollars, and existing industry will look to move to other neighboring states as the increasing costs imposed by HB 2020 make it difficult to operate a business profitably.

There has been no demonstration that HB 2020 will be an effective measure to reduce carbon emissions. Instead of imposing a law that acts as a disproportionate tax on rural economic activity, we urge the Legislature to first understand the tremendous efforts Oregon farmers are already undertaking to make their operations sustainable for many generations.

For the last twenty years, our Cooperative, including many of our Oregon growers, have significantly increased their yields and overall productivity, and have simultaneously reduced their greenhouse gas emissions, overall land use, energy consumption, and fertilizer and pesticide use. The Legislature has a duty to fully understand the very substantial efforts Oregon farmers are already undertaking to reduce their carbon emissions before imposing a disproportionate law that makes it even harder to make a living in rural Oregon.



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Please slow down and take the time to truly understand the enormous negative impact HB 2020 will have on Oregon agriculture. As drafted, this legislation will destroy valuable Oregon businesses that are already doing more than their fair share to reduce carbon emissions.

Sincerely,

Dan Corn
Board Member