

February 28, 2019

To whom it may concern,

My family came to Harney County in the 1850's and we have continually provided food and fiber (wool, mutton and beef) for this great country ever since as my children are the sixth generation to grow up ranching. We currently own a cow/calf operation near Riley. The proposed Oregon State cap and trade legislation (HB 2020) would increase the cost of production on our ranch substantially. The profit margins on a farm or ranch are minimal to begin with, so any increase in production cost will have a detrimental effect. With an increase in fuel and electricity cost all of our costs of production would increase. The fuel for everyday ranching activities including haying, transporting our cattle to market, feeding cattle and simply driving thirty miles into town would increase. Everything that we purchase from livestock feed, to parts for our equipment would increase as the cost of trucking increases. The cost of electricity would increase pumping costs to water our livestock and irrigate our crops. A 500-pound calf four years ago was worth \$2.80/ pound, that same calf today is worth \$1.80/pound. That is a significant decrease in value, and we can not simply pass the increase in our cost of production due to HB 2020 on to our customers. HB 2020 may result in a minuscule decrease in carbon output, but would place Oregon's economy at an extreme disadvantage compared to those States and Countries who are not forced to follow such onerous regulations.

This legislation would also place undue financial pressure on Oregon citizens who are on a fixed income and members of rural communities. Many people who live in rural communities in eastern Oregon are at or below the poverty level. If this bill passes, these good people will have to make difficult financial decisions including whether to purchase fuel, food or electricity.

Please consider all of the consequences of your actions, do not place Oregonians at a disadvantage!

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jeff Maupin  
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