



March 1, 2019

Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Opposition of Cap and Trade policy (HB 2020)

Dear Committee Chairs Dembrow and Power,

I write on behalf of Redmond Economic Development, Inc. (REDI), in opposition of the Cap and Trade legislation presently being considered in the current State of Oregon Legislative Assembly.

Oregon already has one of the lowest carbon outputs of any State in the US. Information shared at the 2018 Oregon Business Summit indicated we were ranked sixth lowest and contributing .70% of the total emissions produced in the US. This low ranking does not merit a declaration of emergency, nor is it reasonable to set an unrealistic cap of compliance already being achieved without further regulation.

Oregon has also worked with its electric utilities requiring them to strengthen their green energy portfolios within the next decade, which will further reduce our carbon footprint. Why fix something if it isn't broken? Just because we want to do MORE than our fair share in reducing carbon emissions? At what cost? The utility industries, both natural gas and electric, have already calculated the increase in the cost of doing business which will ultimately be shouldered by rate payers, businesses AND residents of Oregon. Early estimates show increases as high as 14% for residents to over 100% for businesses in the next 2-10 years.

Oregon is already losing its competitive ability to attract and retain businesses - given the added costs to operate due to recent labor laws increasing minimum wage, adding sick leave and now family medical leave as well as pending legislation to increase taxes - and this legislation doesn't help. Corporations are beginning to wonder if their investments in Oregon could go farther in other states.

REDI has been involved in business, workforce and community development in Central Oregon for over 30 years. In addition to its traded-sector business recruitment efforts, REDI has provided technical support and resources to many of Redmond's existing employers that account for a large percentage of the community's family wage jobs and taxable investment.

We thank you for the opportunity to share our perspective and ask that you vote "No" on any Cap and Trade legislation. If you have any questions regarding our opposition or our remarks, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

Signature,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jon Stark'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Jon Stark
Sr. Director
Redmond Economic Development, Inc.