

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CARBON REDUCTION  
February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019

As an Oregon Family Farm, Blue Line Farms Inc, is a third-generation farm that produces Turf Type Grasses, Hazelnuts, Blueberries and Green Beans. The farm is a complicated business as we must look after and take care of land that provides our opportunities far into the future. This is sometimes challenging considering the profit margins are slim and our input costs continue to rise, while our crop prices fluctuate. For example, in hazelnuts, the base price has dropped sixty- eight percent just in the last four years, while our input costs have risen.

I write to oppose HB2020. Each year we are burdened with regulations that affect our ability to continue to operate as efficiently as we could in order to continue to take care of the resources we are entrusted to maintain and improve. HB2020 will further hinder our ability to continue to improve our efficiencies and optimize our resources. We have taken steps on our farm to reduce our impact on the environment by installing solar arrays, variable frequency drive motors, irrigation technology, satellite imagery and GPS guidance--all tools that save energy and increase efficiencies. These things have all come with a large expense to our operation. Yet, while profits are marginal in the agriculture industry, we are always looking for better ways to help take care of the land as it provides for our future. As we implement these tools to care for our communities, land and the future, these tools come with increased management and management costs. We would love to continue to do more to improve our impact, such as investing in newer equipment that would be more environmentally sound, but we must make decisions to where we get the best results for the dollars that we spend. For example, the truck that we use to haul seed to our warehouse is used for a two-week period during the summer and is driven roughly 200 miles a year, but it is a necessary part of our operation. If we had to bring this truck up to emission standards of today, it would limit our ability to continue to invest in our operation where we can make the biggest impact against carbon.

As part of the community and a third-generation farm, we strive to be good stewards of Oregon and carbon emissions. As one of the 1500 grass seed farm families left in the state, it is important to note the economic and environmental impact grass seed farmers have. Overall grass seed farming drives more than \$1 billion in annual economic activity in Oregon. The filtering and metabolizing qualities of grass help to keep nitrates and sediment out of Oregon's waterways, along with reducing erosion. With roughly one-half million acres of grass in the state of Oregon capturing and retaining carbon--all while each acre is producing enough oxygen for 64 people a day, which is roughly enough oxygen for 3.2 million people each day. If HB2020 passes, the increased costs will not only limit our abilities to continue to be a working environmentalist, it just may put us out of business, and we will no longer be able to grow crops that sequester carbon and help combat climate change. It has become a global market and we feel that we are already further above the curve on combating carbon than many other competitive growing regions. If our farm can no longer compete, we fear that our food and fiber will become imported from areas that do not have the same care for environmental protections as the local ag communities that we have right here in the great state of Oregon. Please do not pass HB2020 and help to preserve this state and the opportunities for our children to become continued stewards of the natural resource industries.

Thank you,

Karl Dettwyler



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