

March 1, 2019
Oregon House of Representatives
Salem, Oregon

NYSSA NAMPA SUGAR BEET GROWERS ASSOCIATION BOARD

My name is Doug Maag; I am 67 years old born and raised in Malheur County Oregon. I graduated from Vale High School in 1970 and served as the Student Body President that year. I graduated from Treasure Valley Community College in 1972 and attended Eastern Oregon University before coming back to the family farm in Vale, Oregon.

Today is a very important day for the Oregon Agricultural Community. Today, I joined a group at 5:00 a.m. to drive 200 miles to Bend. We felt it was important to tell our story of how HB2020 is going to damage and eliminate some of us in the future if implemented.

You have heard numerous testimonies across the state of how it will affect rural Oregon. Throughout my career as a farmer, I have had the privilege to serve on several boards. Not only have I served on the grower's board for the Nyssa Nampa beet company, but am currently serving on the management board of the Snake River Sugar Cooperative. This cooperative was formed in 1997 and was bought by not only Oregon farmers, but farmers from Idaho and Washington. This bill drastically affects 62 growers of the cooperative which accounts for close to 10,000 acres of sugar beets.

My request of you is to listen to what the Agricultural community is trying to tell you how Oregon growers will be damaged in competing with other growers throughout the United States and World.

American Agriculture is consistently incorporating new environmental friendly systems to reduce emission, while increasing production efficiency in order to be more sustainable.

Americans spend the lowest per cent of disposable income on food in comparison to any other country in the world. Laws like House Bill 2020 will raise not only the cost of production but will increase food cost and what Americans spend for their food.

The farmers in Eastern Oregon love this great country. We love producing the most affordable and safe healthy food. We value our environment and all the Natural resources we have. We truly believe in the continued improvements as technology will present itself.

HB2020 has not considered or given us any credit for the improvements we have made over the last several years. I personally will give anyone of you a tour on my farm to explain and show you the progress we have made.

This bill will not make a measurable change in global greenhouse gas emissions; however the policy will reduce the competitiveness of Oregon Family farms and Ranches.

Please, we are asking you, slow down and get the real Science Technology before you make a terrible mistake on this initiative.

Thank You

Doug Maag