

March 7, 2019

Oregon Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction:

I am currently the President of Oregon Farm Bureau and a rancher and timber landowner in southern coastal Oregon. As a reference, the Oregon Farm Bureau Federation (OFB) is the state's most comprehensive general agricultural association, representing over 6,700 farm and ranch families in Oregon who make up a significant part of our rural communities. I ranch with my husband, and our operation is spread out through both Coos and Curry Counties. I believe that Oregon's working lands and agriculture are positive for our economy and environment.

I am currently concerned with the current Cap and Trade bill, HB2020 as drafted. The roadshow the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction conducted over the past two weeks has highlighted the concerns of Oregon's farmers and ranchers. The turnout across the state and especially those who drove through winter conditions to Baker City underscore how serious and engaged farmers and ranchers are all over the State. The committee heard about the impacts on Oregon's natural resources. I ask these concerns are taken very seriously, and consideration is given to the complexity of the impacts on Oregon's farmers and ranchers.

On our ranch we care for our livestock by driving to properties, transporting feed, and during the winter caring for our lambs and calves multiple times a day. We have properties that are an hour drive that require management and animal husbandry. All this active management requires fuel. Fuel is very costly, and we are as efficient with our fuel as possible to save on costs. Living in rural Oregon, supplies required to manage our ranch and timber lands are spread out across the region. We are very mindful on clustering our trips and calling ahead to ensure equipment parts or supplies are in stock.

Beyond our operation, we have similar personal experiences you heard from rural Oregonians around the State. In the more urban areas, access to groceries, schools, medical services, and entertainment are short drives or even walkable. On our ranch, my grandchildren do not have access to school bus transportation, which adds daily economic cost. All normal living expenses will increase.

Oregon farmers and ranchers will see both personal and business expenses increase, all while directly contributing positive impacts to the economy and environment. Farmers and ranchers are under market and regulatory pressures to "reduce our carbon footprint" all within our low-profit margins and lack of being able to recover costs in the market. Working lands sequester carbon and farmers and ranchers are making ongoing investments to maintain healthy soils, water, and air. We understand that the management of our lands is not for our generation, but we manage for our kids to have the same opportunities we had.

At minimum, amendments are needed to HB 2020 and further work needs to be done to ensure it does not devastate rural Oregon and agriculture. Not every farm or ranch can afford the increase in all inputs including fuel, natural gas, and electricity. I ask the committee, please evaluate what this bill will do to the young families and elderly in mine and other communities throughout rural Oregon. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Sharon Waterman, President of Oregon Farm Bureau