

To whom it may concern,

My family and I are cattle ranchers from eastern Oregon. We have been a part of the cattle industry our entire lives, as well as multiple generations, and deeply care about the prosperity of agriculture in our area as well as all over Oregon. Being a part of the younger generation of ranchers, my partners and I, including, my brother, Jarred Livingston (24) and my sister, Julia Livingston, and I (21) also feel an inherent responsibility to care for, and protect, the resources that make our livelihood possible. This includes taking a special interest in the House Bill 2020. With the average age of cattle ranchers in the United States being about 58 years old according to the National Cattleman's Beef Association, the young cattleman's perspective is a valuable one to take into consideration. Our generation will be directly affected by the consequences of greenhouse gas emissions occurring presently. We believe that addressing these issues with effective, reasonable, and attainable solutions to be extremely important. However, we must come to these conclusions without disproportionately burdening an industry so vital to the prosperity of Oregon's citizens and economy.

The implementation of this bill, as presented, will burden our operation in a way we simply cannot afford. We are young cattle ranchers already struggling to strike out on our own in the industry. With our summer and winter pastures in different zip codes, we rely on trucking our cattle between the two locations. Trucking costs will be the initial hit of this proposed bill as we also rely on it when hauling hay as well as shipping our cattle to market. Currently we spend around \$4,000 in fuel cost. As agricultural fuels are NOT exempt under the bill currently, If HB 2020 goes through, these costs will increase by roughly \$300. Due to the slim margin of viability in the beef industry, monumental increases in costs of production, such as this one, will effectively end our current way of life. And this is only when considering the short term effects of HB 2020. The long term effects of the cap and trade bill will be even more damning to our operation. It will also cause the price of hay to increase along with all other products produced in Oregon's economy. These production cost increases will also force our operation to raise our own prices losing customers in the process.

My siblings and I are the future of Agriculture, please give us our chance to continue to be agriculturalists in the future. For these reasons, I ask that you oppose HB 2020.

Thank you for your consideration,

Justine Livingston