

Testimony  
Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction  
March 4, 2019

I am Janice Flegel and I farm with my family in Crook County; I Oppose HB 2020. The goal of HB 2020 is to reduce carbon in the atmosphere, however your own experts have stated that it will do little to nothing to reach this goal. The stated goal of HB 2020 is to limit climate change. If we look at history we see that there has always been climate change, yes even before people were using fossil fuels to farm, process and manufacture. There have been times in our world's history that the temperatures were much warmer than they are today and there were times that were much colder than today. We have seen in our own life time extreme drought and flooding. To say that climate change has only happened in the last 200 years is not accurate. We have cyclical climates and that is how it has been for thousands of years. The goal we have as a farming family is to responsibly take care of the environment so it is productive with clean water and healthy soils so we are able to pass it on to our children who will also do the same.

As I listened to testimony March 2, 2019 in Bend I was reminded of the fact that people don't remember their history. One person suggested that we have not seen dumping of snow before recent history. I remember being a new mom December 92' through January 93' we had 24 inches of snow and it was below 0 for over a month. Bend had snow piled in the center of the streets as well as Prineville. Then the forest fire issue; the biggest reason forest fires are burning out of control is because we are managing for the environmentalist community instead of using timber for saw mills and keeping healthy forests. Controlled burns is not the best way to manage forest health. The conservation practices farmers have been encouraged to engage in are some of the reason that the wheat country was devastated last summer not the dry summer we had. In past years farmers would plow or disk around their fields as soon as the outside rounds had been harvested for fire control. To say that we have worse weather events today as compared to historic weather I believe that is the result of access to instant news, poor memories and the fact that populations are concentrating in what was rural areas.

HB 2020 punishes farmers and ranchers who proactively take measures to improve efficiencies and optimize resources used on their farms and ranches. It discourages continued investment in technology to attain these efficiencies. Just the proposed .16 per gallon of fuel will cost our farm \$4000 more not to mention the added cost to other inputs we must have. Our margins are tight and we have to take market value for our products, we don't set the price. These factors make it hard for us to stay in business and businesses that we rely on for processing will have the same issues. Our rural communities will be hit disproportionately hard by cap-and-trade. Oregonians enjoy traveling the state and experiencing its beauty. The economic impacts this will have on rural Oregon will curtail the diversity and experience Oregon has to offer. This will effect our community's tourism dollars they have become dependent on not to mention the costs it will add to our county dump and emergency services.

The economic impact on the citizens of Oregon alone should be reason enough not to go forward with this legislation. But also not having in this legislation where money collected will be spent and how the spending of the revenue will lower carbon is inexcusable on the part of the writers of this legislation. Please recognize before it is too late what this will do to Oregon farmers, ranchers, processors and manufacturing. We want to have a vibrant community and industry that can be passed on from generation to generation not a state that people want to leave. HB 2020 will adversely impact our family, farm and community. I strongly urge you to oppose HB 2020.