

I am writing to oppose HB2020 the Cap and Trade, or Carbon Reduction bill. Every single report I see expects this bill to increase the cost of living. The cost of gas will rise, much steeper than inflation. The cost of natural gas will go up by 40%. The cost of goods shipped to Oregon will increase, thereby increasing the cost of everyday goods, from groceries to pharmaceuticals to clothing.

Rural communities will be hit disproportionately hard by cap-and-trade. The cost for those living in rural areas to access basic services will rise. Already an ambulance trip from our farm can run as high or higher than \$1500. I care for my 93 year old grandmother, living on the farm with her so that she can remain in the home she loves. Yet what will it be like as gas prices rise and taking her to medical appointment becomes more and more expensive. Already we do what we can to minimize trips to town, by combining errands and buying in bulk, but you can't combine medical visits and follow ups. Gas costs are guaranteed to rise and going to town for essential services will be harder.

(And by the way telecare is not the answer until rural broadband improves. We get poor cell reception and satellite internet is our only option for internet access, the cable company does even come down our road, and our internet access can be affected by weather and has a real problem with lag times.)

And I also think of those on fixed incomes, especially the elderly. These cost increases will hit them especially hard. And not every elderly person has family to help them the way my grandmother does. What if you can't afford the gas to go to town for your doctors appointment? What happens then?

Also those of us in rural communities depend on the farmers and ranchers and other natural resource businesses who work on very small margins, when CAP forces them out of business more and more people will lose their livelihoods. And THEN they will be additionally burdened with traveling to town to try and find work and access employment services. As employment in rural areas decreases the costs of housing will decrease and many will be unable to sell their homes in order to take jobs in town. To me it looks like the costs of CAP and trade will put rural Oregonians at a severe disadvantage. I ask you to help families, like mine, by working to minimize the impact of cap-and-trade policy on rural communities and businesses.

I ask you to vote 'NO' on HB 2020. Please protect family farmers, protect rural communities and other vulnerable Oregonians from cost increases under cap-and-trade.

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