

As a small business owner and farmer, I OPPOSE HB 2020 for the many reasons below:

My story starts out similar to many you have already heard. I am a third-generation farmer in Central Oregon. My son would be a fourth-generation farmer, but he sees the hand writing on the wall. He will not continue the farming tradition in our family. Oregon is not a business-friendly state! Especially in light of a bill like this even being considered.

Cap and Trade will do nothing but increase the cost of production on farms throughout Oregon. Those of us in farming continually invest in modernizing our farms as we have available capital. This bill will decrease the available capital to modernize. It will have the exact opposite effect of what is intended.

How will taxing rural farms decrease our energy use? Will it magically move my farm closer to the markets? Will it magically reduce my need to till, plant and harvest? Will it magically reduce the depth of my wells so less energy will be used to pump water? The answer of course is NO! I will use the same amount of energy, whether it be gas, diesel, propane, or electricity.

Cap and trade is not a system designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It's a system designed to raise money for the government, and unelected bureaucrats will be allowed to raise the tax on greenhouse gases without a vote of the legislature.

Please do not move this bill out of committee.

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