

Testimony OPPOSING HB 2020 "Relating to greenhouse gas emissions declaring an emergency", a.k.a."Cap and Trade", a.k.a "Clean Energy Jobs Bill".

Hello. I am a legal citizen, and a resident of Oregon senate district 01 and house district 02, and a voter.

This legislative bill, HB 2020 (1), is the wrong thing to do in several respects. It is an overreaction to the situation, and it overreaches. My specific criticisms include, but are not limited to the following.

1. There is no emergency. At minimum, the "emergency declaration" should be removed, rightfully empowering voters who might want to oppose.
2. In the big picture, it is likely that the reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions attributable to the legislation would be insignificant.
3. Struggling individuals would likely be hurt the most, in a sense making this a regressive tax. I consider it demeaning to create an unnecessary situation where people would be required to admit their low-income status to obtain assistance needed to procure a necessity such as a fuel (e.g. natural gas) or other energy source used for space heating, cooking, water heating, etc.
4. There seems to be "weasel-wording" included in the bill that might enable tax revenues collected from the sale of transportation fuels to be diverted to non-transportation uses (2).
5. Well-connected individuals would benefit, while the majority of people would not benefit. To me, that equals corruption and cronyism. Undesirable.
6. Much of the concern about climate change seems to be based on projections from computer modeling. Computer modeling can be a powerful tool. Personally, I have done a bit of computer modeling (to do building energy simulations). I enjoyed it and found it most helpful. HOWEVER- it has been said that "All models are wrong, but some are useful." I strongly agree with that. Especially since the "science" and "knowledge" behind this action is largely based on modeling- it is wrong to take over more of our economy and to subjugate one portion of the citizenry to the benefit others.
7. A new bureaucracy would be (or already has been) created. Bureaucracies tend to be like zombies that resist being phased out when no longer useful. This is likely to bring with it much burden for taxpayers. We are already facing a crisis as a result of undisciplined spending.

Please consider killing this bill, or at least modify it to be less harmful. I think we would do fine without this money-grab that would benefit mostly the well-connected. Thank you.

References:

1. The bill: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Measures/Overview/HB2020>
2. Testimony by AAA representative: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/158447>
3. My Facebook "Note" on this legislation: <https://www.facebook.com/notes/mike-berry/opposition-to-2019-oregon-legislature-bill-hb-2020-relating-to-greenhouse-gas-em/10205427568805224/>

Signed,
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cc:
State Rep. for District 02
State Sen. for District 01