

The Oregonian ran a story in which the Union of Concerned Scientists used an actor to tell a story about how California's cap-and-trade system has benefited their economy:

Hasta la vista, greenhouse gas: Arnold Schwarzenegger weighs in on Oregon's carbon emission reduction bill

<https://www.oregonlive.com/trending/2019/04/arnold-schwarzenegger-weighs-in-on-oregons-carbon-emission-reduction-bill.html>

Union of Concerned Scientists

<https://twitter.com/UCSUSA/status/1113535390907080711>

Apparently, as is the nature of Hollywood writing that fictionalizes reality to make money, they left important facts out of the script of meaningless generalities mouthed by the actor who arguably is best known for his movie role as a cyborg:

US states with the highest levels of income inequality (2018)

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/03/12/us-states-with-the-highest-levels-of-income-inequality.html>

The new gilded age

Income inequality in the U.S. by state, metropolitan area, and county (2018)

<https://www.epi.org/publication/the-new-gilded-age-income-inequality-in-the-u-s-by-state-metropolitan-area-and-county/>

Leaving aside that the current low unemployment has occurred during the Trump administration for reasons that both predate the Trump administration and that have no link to cap-and-trade in the other 49 states, California began enforcing its cap-and-trade bill on January 1, 2013.

The first report documents that Democratic California has the **4th highest level of income inequality**, surpassed only by Democratic New York, Democratic Connecticut, and Republican Louisiana. (Of course, this begs the question, which of these states is not like the other and for what reasons, aside from presidential preference in the last three elections?) More importantly, Democratic California has the **2nd fastest growing rate of income inequality**, surpassed only by Montana, a decidedly "Purple" state. The source the CNBC cites used American Community Survey data from 2010-2016. (Oregon was ranked 28th and 12th, respectively, showing a concerning trend under one-party supermajority rule.)

The second report is from the Economy Policy Institute, generally recognized to be a liberal think tank. They state they applied "the same methodology employed by Thomas Piketty and Emmanuel Saez (2003)" to IRS tax data from 2010-2015. They conclude that California has the **7th highest level of income inequality**, again surpassed only by Democratic New York, Democratic-leaning Florida (based on last 3 presidential elections, and House delegation), Democratic Connecticut, Democratic Nevada, Republican Wyoming and Democratic Massachusetts. California has the **5th highest income threshold for the top 1%**, surpassed only by Democratic Connecticut, Democratic New Jersey, Democratic Massachusetts, and Democratic New York, documenting further the severity of income inequality in California. (Oregon was ranked 23th and 24th respectively.)

The facts speak for themselves about what California's cap-and-trade has and hasn't done for the people of California, and who the politicians responsible for it serve. They are also highly suggestive of who the Oregon supermajority in Salem also represents most.