



senr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

April 9, 2019

Dear Senators,

Baker County opposes SB 928 with the amendments.

It is unclear why SB 928 is not included within the House Bill 2020 as the State can't have one without the other. By having both, it appears that even if HB 2020 should fail, SB 928 could still go into effect.

The OCA will be administered by an appointed director and a governing board. All of which will be cherry-picked by the Governor so that there is no questioning the climate change agenda. The board, consisting of 'ex-officio', non-voting members and nine voting members gives even more credence to this. This huge bureaucratic department will have no oversight as proposed, be able to control increases in taxes at will, and cannot be voted on by the citizens of the State.

This bill proposes to create another department of State government that will, for a period of time during development, not only duplicate existing, established departments, but will also hire an additional (25) new staff. While the proposal states that staff from ODOE will be completely absorbed by the Climate agency in time, it will still increase the cost by a significant amount. Modestly, the new employees that makes \$50,000/yr + benefits and PERS, will end up costing taxpayers at least a quarter of a million dollars per year.

Remove the emergency clause. The Oregon Constitution gives citizens the right to challenge legislation through referendum. The inclusion of this indefensible clause illustrates that the supporters of the bill do not want those in opposition to have a chance to refer the bill to the voters.

SB 928 is an overreach of gigantic proportions and should not become law.

Sincerely,

Bill Harvey, Chair
Baker County Commission