



Snake River Produce Company, L.L.C.

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April 23, 2019

Senator Michael Dembrow
900 Court Street NE, S-407
Salem, OR 97301

Representative Karin Power
900 Court Street NE, H-274
Salem, OR 97301

Senator Cliff Bentz
900 Court Street NE, S-301
Salem, OR 97301

Representative David Brock Smith
900 Court Street NE, H-379
Salem, OR 97301

SUBJECT: Letter Against HB 2020 – “Cap & Trade”

Dear Senator Dembrow, Representative Power, Senator Bentz, Representative Smith and Members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction:

I am writing to share my opposition to House Bill 2020.

Snake River Produce Company, LLC is a packer and shipper of dry bulb onions, specializing in providing Spanish Sweet onions of superior quality in a variety of packaging and sizes. Located in Nyssa, Oregon Snake River Produce ships red, white, and yellow onions seasonally.

I do not advocate or condone harming the environment, and as an agriculturalist by livelihood, profession, and heart – I feel farmers and ranchers are the true stewards of the Earth. Preserving and conserving our land, water, and air are vital to the survival of agriculture. Each year, with more regulations and restrictions, farmers become more efficient and produce more with less.

Rural areas such as Nyssa, where Snake River Produce is located, are extremely dependent upon agriculture. If passed, the farmers that make up the collective economic base of this area are at severe financial risk due to the proposals in HB 2020. There are no “green fuel” tractors, no electric harvest trucks; the technology is not there to allow for a reduction in fuel consumption on the agricultural stage. Onions are planted, corrugated, sprayed, cultivated, side-dressed, lifted, topped, and harvested by tractor. Those harvested onions are trucked to stations for storage. From storage, they are trucked to the packing facility. Once packed, they are again trucked to markets for sale and consumption. The nature of agriculture is that it is spread out – there is no way to move our fields closer together to reduce the number of miles driven or gallons of fuel purchased. For a state that so fervently protects its lands and right to farm, I find this Bill complicates and undermines those efforts.

Furthermore, HB 2020 will have a detrimental impact on Oregon businesses' ability to compete – and especially where Snake River Produce is located is only a mere 1.2 miles from the State of Idaho, the effects will be compounded where competition is concerned. I foresee fuel stations cropping up on the Idaho side of the border and Oregon individuals and companies alike will take advantage of the cheaper fuel, which will have the opposite impact intended by HB 2020 – as Idaho's current fuel has higher carbon content and will increase overall carbon emissions.

Personally, my husband and I come from multi-generational Oregon-based farms and currently raise forage crops on our 130-acre farm. We live 14 miles from Nyssa; there is no public transportation, no option of riding a bike to work. The fuel increases alone will put hardships on my family and many others who live in rural Oregon. Fuel price increases will be felt across all goods sold in Oregon and will also increase the price of products and services marketed out of our region – reducing our competitiveness, in my case – on onions, specifically. The financial impacts of HB 2020 reach from the large corporation to the small family farm and are devastating – to which the benefit is “minuscule” per Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Director, Richard Whitman.

Please VOTE NO on HB 2020. I also implore you to remove the emergency clause, as this bill impacts every voter in Oregon and we as citizens should have the right to challenge this legislation through referendum if passed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tiffany Cruickshank". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Tiffany Cruickshank
Transportation Manager

cc: Representative Lynn Findley