



# Snake River Produce Company, L.L.C.

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April 22, 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.

I am General Manager and part owner of Snake River Produce Company, LLC 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. The other owners of Snake River Produce are growers. The business operates independent of their farming operations. Our grower partners are wonderful stewards of the land and the environment. They believe in conservation from not only a philosophical standpoint but, also a practical standpoint. They use the least amount of energy possible.

We do not advocate or condone harming the environment. 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.

Additionally, the effect of this law will be devastating to the Ontario area Truck Stops and Fuel Stations. We rely on having trucks to transport our products and it is a real benefit to us to have the "Loves" and "Pilot" truck stops in our communities. It is my estimation that these businesses will close because they cannot compete with fuel costs in Idaho merely a mile or so away.

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, with our neighboring states of Idaho, Utah and Washington. 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,



Kay Riley  
General Manager

cc: Representative Lynn Findley