



Joint Committee on Ways and Means
And
Subcommittee on Natural Resources

HB 2020 Testimony for June 5, 2019

Dear Committee Members,

Bill Harvey
Commission Chair
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Baker County stands firmly in opposition of HB 2020 and all of its economic crushing facets. We urge the legislature to show common sense and compassion as it discusses the impacts of this bill and ultimately, not pass it.

The paragraphs below are facts, not made-up, feel-good statements. Throughout the process, the legislature has received testimony, written and in person, on the economy destroying impacts especially to rural counties. Maybe, the unintended consequences to the environment and the fabric of society will have a bigger impact.

A pair of studies in Nature have said that, as of 2017, none of the major industrialized nations were implementing the policies they had envisioned through the Paris Climate Accord, and have not met their pledged emission reduction targets, and even if they had, the sum of all member pledges (as of 2016) would not keep the global temperature rise "well below 2. °C". According to UNEP the emission cut targets in November 2016 will result in temperature rise by 3 °C above preindustrial levels, far above the 2 °C of the Paris climate agreement. (Wikipedia)

In addition, an MIT News article written on April 22, 2016 discussed recent MIT studies on the true impact that the Paris Agreement had on global temperature increase. Using their Integrated Global System Modeling (IGSM) to predict temperature increase results in 2100, they used a wide range of scenarios that included no effort towards climate change past 2030, and full extension of the Paris Agreement past 2030. They concluded that the Paris Agreement would cause temperature decrease by about 0.6 to 1.1 degrees Celsius compared to a no-effort-scenario, with only a 0.1°C change in 2050 for all scenarios. They concluded that, although beneficial, there was strong evidence that the goal provided by the Paris Agreement could not be met in the future under the current circumstances. (Wikipedia)

Knowing this, Donald J. Trump, president of the United States (of which Oregon is a part of), pulled the US from the Paris Climate Accord in 2017. At that time, the US was producing somewhere between 14% and 17% of the entire emissions globally. The president realized that benefits of reductions cannot be from the

effort of a few countries, has huge economic impacts on all citizens, and is far from being technically feasible at this time.

With this in mind at a national and global scale, why does the State of Oregon believe that implementing cap and trade will have even a miniscule impact on the reduction of emissions at the sake of decimating the communities and lives of its citizens?

Simply, HB 2020 is an attempt by the same people who found the proposed national Green New Deal, to assert their agenda state by state.

HB 2020 will be impossible to fully implement and is technologically impossible at this time. Renewable energy resources are dependent on environmental conditions that are beyond human control. According to the Energy Information Administration, the energy efficiency of capacity factor ratio of wind and solar electricity generation are 35 percent and 26 percent, respectively. In contrast, the energy efficiency of nuclear power is 92%.

The intermittency of wind and solar electricity generation necessitates a huge expansion of storage infrastructure. Where will this infrastructure be located? System maintenance and operation alone will cost millions of dollars annually. The costs will be relayed to the consumer which will increase their energy bills significantly and potentially will lead to widespread energy poverty. Citizens will have to choose which to pay for; food, medicines, housing, transportation, or electricity.

Alternative energy sites have severe detrimental impacts to the environment and wildlife. Solar farms incinerate thousands of birds each year according to the LA Times, and wind turbines are the cause of death to hundreds of thousands of birds, including Bald and Golden Eagles, migratory birds, and bats each year.

HB 2020 is a budgetary nightmare. At the very beginning of the program the costs to the citizens are estimated to be \$22,269,588 as per the Legislative Fiscal Office. All of these costs will require budgetary action, but are not being directed by the vote of the people it effects.

HB 2020 is antithetical to the principles of free market capitalism and private property rights, it is a thinly veiled attempt to usher in policies that create a socialist society. It is a blatant statement by the supermajority and the governor that they will obstruct any action that the duly elected president supports. They are no longer serving the will, or the safety, health, and economic viability of the State's citizens in their haste to defy national edicts.

Repeatedly, eastern counties have provided hard evidence that this bill will decimate the population. This fact does not seem to matter to the Oregon legislature. We have provided testimony to the fact that businesses will move out of state and actually increase output of emissions because it is not regulated. This fact does not seem to matter to the Oregon legislature. Maybe, just maybe, the unintended consequences to the environment may make an impact.

The proposal of HB 2020 has no semblance of connection to emissions or climate change. The offer of financial help to high poverty areas, that Oregon creates through the passage of this bill, will give the state more overreach and control the actions of the citizens. Baker County, and the rest of eastern Oregon, does not want your handouts. We want to remain economically viable by our own hands in our own counties. No collections of revenue-raising measures will ever pay for its implementation. It will completely destroy the economy and the societal fabric of Oregon.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional testimony. Please do what's right and not pass this bill.

Sincerely,



Bill Harvey, Chair
Baker County Commission