

**From:** [Keith LaHaie](#)  
**To:** [JWMNR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** OPPOSITION TO HB 2020 - TESTIMONY  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 5, 2019 12:12:36 PM

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Dear Members of the Joint Committee On Ways and Means – Subcommittee on Natural Resources:

Please register our opposition to HB 2020. We are **actual stakeholders** in this process, as our family will be **directly affected** by this legislation. There are many purported “stakeholders” who have and will be submitting testimony to the Committee (typically, environmental advocacy groups and climate NGO’s) in an attempt to facilitate pre-determined outcomes, but they will likely feel little of the actual impact from this bill’s implementation. We are actual citizens who will be paying the higher costs and reduced quality of life that this bill will create. The proponents of this bill will claim we oppose it out of “fear,” and that may be true, any fears we have are well-founded.

Truthfully our feelings for this bill drift more toward anger than fear . . . We think that this legislation is very dangerous, as it paves the way for more draconian and expensive measures in the years to come. We strongly object to having our lives controlled and micro-managed by government legislatures and unelected bureaucrats, and we’re certainly not happy looking forward to a future with **more expensive and scarce energy**. Proponents of HB 2020 paint a rosy picture of that future, but we’re not buying it! The very premise of this bill is to drive down the usage of fossil fuels by artificially **driving up the cost!** Higher costs for fossil fuels which will not be easily or cheaply replaced by their preferred wind and solar electric power sources. This bill will ultimately eliminate consumer choice, as the only source of energy available for daily life will be electricity – electricity that is only available from government-regulated monopolies. No thanks!

If HB 2020 is made law, Oregon will be at a competitive disadvantage with states who have not foolishly instituted such punitive measures on their industries. How does that improve Oregon’s economy?

As residents of Southern Oregon, we find it laughable that so much effort and expense is being used to reduce the emissions of a colorless, odorless and essentially non-toxic gas that comprises a minute portion of the atmosphere, while folks living in this region choke on toxic wildfire smoke for several months each year. Wildfire smoke that is primarily caused by poor forest management and misguided suppression policies – **not by carbon dioxide emissions!** Where are the priorities?

Not everyone believes that the climate debate is over, or that it’s “settled science.” We are very skeptical concerning the impact of carbon dioxide emissions on the climate, and we’re very concerned about the **alarmism and hysteria** being used to advance radical and destructive policies such as the “Green New Deal,” and HB 2020. As far as we’re concerned, the science is far from settled, and it’s been essentially “bought and paid for” by governing bodies who are keen on crafting this type of legislation. We’re going to “fight” climate change by crippling our economy and reducing our standard of living? That doesn’t make any sense! “Climate pollution” is a contrived term, and carbon dioxide is not a pollutant – questionable Supreme Court decisions notwithstanding. Doomsayers have been announcing our demise for decades, yet their claims are constantly disproven. Every significant (yet

routine) weather event is seized upon by alarmists as evidence of climate change. The agenda is clear!

Beyond the immediate cost to Oregonians, HB 2020 amounts to a massive wealth transfer from hard working citizens to politically-favored industries. Hundreds of millions of dollars will flow into government coffers, with little or no oversight or citizen input as to how the funds will be spent. This bill will create yet another unelected bureaucracy (Oregon Climate Authority), which will only increase the already onerous burden of government intrusion and regulation. It also consolidates even more power into an untrustworthy and seemingly incompetent executive branch. Government intrusion and control needs to be reduced, not expanded!

The argument that this bill will help Oregon's economy by creating thousands of "green energy jobs" is **not convincing**, especially given the history of these efforts at the federal level (Solyndra, etc.). An unnamed "economist" has told the JCCR that HB 2020 will create "50,000 high paying clean energy jobs" - where is the guarantee for that? If this bill kills 75,000 jobs in the process, what have we accomplished? Are these low-paying jobs installing weather-stripping and solar panels? Performing work on projects with dubious benefits? The 50,000 number is inflated from the outset, as existing jobs will be folded into the "clean energy" classification even if they only have a peripheral association with clean energy projects. The private sector needs to create jobs via free markets, not through government coercion.

Organizations such as Renew Oregon claim that there is overwhelming "constituent demand" for this legislation, based on the attendance of 700 people at "climate lobbies" held over the last several years. 700 people in a state of nearly 4.5 million? We know for a fact that here in Southern Oregon, **hundreds of people showed up at the JCCR public meeting to show their opposition to HB 2020.**

Proponents of this legislation will counter that the impact of climate change on their industries exceeds the cost of this legislation, but where is the proof? Where is the proof that the costs of this legislation will be offset by the benefits of an "improved" climate - if such a thing can even be achieved? The Juliana v. United States lawsuit currently being heard in the Ninth Circuit shows how ridiculous the climate movement has become - as if the courts can somehow guarantee a stable climate!

Sadly, the additional costs that result from this legislation will do nothing to mitigate global climate change - this is borne out by testimony from the Director of Oregon State University's Climate Change Research Institute. Oregon emits an infinitesimal amount of CO2 into the atmosphere - 0.14% of total global emissions. What guarantee will we receive that this legislation will do **anything** to inhibit climate change or improve our quality of life? What benefits will we citizens receive in return for this harm? Proponents make lofty claims, but where is the guarantee?

HB 2020 will damage Oregon's economy in ways we can't even imagine. The economy of rural Oregon is already impacted due to restrictions on resource extraction - why on earth would we cripple it further with this senseless legislation (unless that is a desired outcome)? We're also facing a shortage of hundreds of megawatts of electricity on the state grid, **which in itself will drive up electricity prices** - HB 2020 will only make this worse! We should be expanding our energy production portfolio, not creating scarcity with "cap and tax" measures.

HB 2020 will create an artificial market of carbon credits and allowances, further enriching state coffers and wealthy individuals who are able to participate in carbon “auctions.” With that in mind, and given the fact that this legislation will have essentially no impact on the climate, we’re left to believe that it’s nothing but a **money and power grab**.

We do not dispute that the climate is changing. It has been changing for millennia - long before the advent of humans and industrialization. We need to adapt to the changing climate, and the challenges it presents. We also need to continue to reduce real emissions and pollution over time.

At the same time, cheap and abundant energy is the hallmark of a prosperous economy. A prosperous economy will provide the revenue needed to implement climate adaptation measures and facilitate further emissions reductions - without the need for punitive legislation. HB 2020 runs counter to this model, by diminishing prosperity - creating energy scarcity, **killing jobs** and reducing the standard of living – despite dreamy claims to the contrary. HB 2020 will also burden Oregonians with massive government intervention and control over energy production and consumption; transportation, and other important aspects of their daily lives.

Please reject this damaging and dangerous legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

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