

From: [Dan Jansen](#)
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Subject: SB 1530 cap-and-trade bill
Date: Monday, February 3, 2020 11:32:18 PM

Dear Legislators,

I cannot stress enough how difficult it is to own and operate a small farming operation in the state of Oregon. We are continuously fighting to protect our way of life in our small rural town east of the cascades.

My wife and I lease approximately 1000 acres of irrigated farmland in Christmas Valley and produce some of the world's best alfalfa hay marketed to pacific rim countries. Yes, we are a small operation even though 1000 acres sounds like a lot. It takes so many acres (which are hard to find due to water restrictions) just to make a suitable living. Now with more and more taxes from Salem adding on, we need to stretch our resources even more, add acreage, and try to do more work with less employees because our overhead keeps climbing.

My wife and I were both teachers at one point in our lives. We left the classrooms and worked as education consultants while trying to manage a full-time farm just to cover costs of getting started. It appears our elected officials just don't care about small/medium- sized businesses in this state. We both have been born and raised in Oregon and would hate the thought of leaving farmland that has been in the family for generations. However, further tax burden and legislation aimed to create funding for inflated government spending driven by urban problems is not fair to those of us making an honest living in rural communities - communities that are suffering enough as it is.

If cap and trade legislation is the only way to counter out of control state budgets, and you in Salem are unwilling to spend within your means, then please consider the following idea. Rather than penalize small farms and forest operations, give us farmers and foresters carbon credits for the carbon dioxide our plants convert into oxygen, food, fuel, and fiber. Farm operations such as ours that grow 1000 acres of alfalfa and cereal grains surely contribute to a positive sequestration of carbon. I don't think this is too crazy to discern since I doubt cap and trade will have any positive effect on the environment - but if you truly believe this legislation will improve our environment then this logic of farms and forests providing some remediation in the form of offsetting damage by industry and urban pollution should be encouraged and rewarded.

For the preservation of what is left in rural Oregon - **dismiss this bill once and for all** or help those of us providing positive environmental returns.

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