

From: [Ellie Hilger](#)
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Subject: I oppose SB 1530 - cap and trade
Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 2:29:06 PM

Dear Senate Committee Members,

My husband and I live in Tillamook county. We both come from logging families and grew up with a love of the land. I am a special education teacher and my husband is a reforestation manager for a private timber company. We love where we live and are very involved in the community. This bill would be devastating to our community and our way of life. We oppose SB 1530 for the following reasons:

Little impact on global emissions, big impact on our economy:

Of the 50 states, Oregon ranks 47th in least emissions per capita.

If Oregon reduced its emissions, it would be “imperceptible” on the global scale (OSU professor in the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences, Phillip Mote, May, 22, 2018 Joint Carbon Committee time: 47:34 to 47:495)

This bill will reduce the viability of Oregon’s homegrown businesses, and Oregon’s natural resource industries, which will hit rural Oregon the hardest

It will make Oregon trucking, logging, transportation, lumber, farming, and commercial fishing less competitive. With 80% of commodities leaving the state, it is critical that Oregon maintain a competitive edge in the global marketplace. These businesses have a limited ability to recoup added production costs.

Cap-and-trade will reduce our competitiveness by levying a new layer of costs onto Oregon businesses that our counterparts in other states and parts of the world don’t have.

High cost to Oregonians:

A conservative estimate of cost would be \$650 per year for a family of four (Legislative Revenue Office issued the amount of revenue the Cap and Trade program would cost in HB 2020 based on total allowance revenue at the lowest revenue estimate for allowance sales).

In one year, gas prices are estimated to go up between 19 and 72 cents.

These gas prices are compounded by other recent taxes:

- Oregon’s Low Carbon Fuel Standard (now five cents a gallon and on its way to 25 cents over the next few years)

- The 10-cent-per-gallon gas tax authorized by HB 2017
- The international ban on bunker fuel for sea transport, estimated to increase the cost of diesel by 20 to 30 percent effective January 2020; and
- The recently enacted Corporate Activities Tax which exempts fuel sales, but does not exempt other costs of fuel such as freight.

Increase in bureaucracy with no accountability:

- This bill creates and sets up one of the biggest bureaucratic and government expansions, with the “new” Office of Green House Gas Reduction under DEQ.
- You would think that such an expansion in government would come with transparency and accountability, but almost half the bill is exempt from public records disclosure.

Oregon is already doing a lot to reduce current emissions:

- The Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS),
- The Renewable Portfolio Standard,
- Coal to Clean,
- The Energy Trust of Oregon,
- Clean Fuel Law,
- Tax benefits for solar,
- Tax credits for wind,

- BETC,
- Electric car subsidies
- Moratorium on offshore drilling

One of the main problems is that we do not know how much all of these energy increases are already costing Oregonians.

Rushing through the short session:

It is important not to rush such an all-encompassing bill during the short session that has exempted many public records.

The short session was never intended to pass such all-encompassing bills.

Alternative Plans:

- Encourage innovation over intimidation.
- Support our farms and forest businesses and you won't need to levy taxes against the very businesses who capture and sequester carbon.
- We should focus on planting more trees and utilizing Oregon's carbon sink. Plant more trees to sequester carbon, actively manage our forests, and encourage what is already being done to reduce emissions.
- Further incentivize industry with tax credits and other means to transition to cleaner production.
- Incentivize individuals with rebates for electric vehicles.
- Expand our electricity grid to handle EV's

Thank you for listening to my concerns. I urge you to consider the negative long term consequences of this bill and the harm it would bring to communities like my own.

Sincerely,
Ellie Hilger
Tillamook county