

February 7<sup>th</sup> 2020

Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources

Re: House Bill 4001 – testimony in opposition

Dear Chairman Senator Dembrow and Senators Olsen, Findley, Prozanski & Roblan:

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1530 for a variety of reasons. For starters, I'm completely fed up with the Oregon legislature selling us an idea only to turn it into something entirely different than what we were told. Using the short session, originally promoted for making *minor budget tweaks*, is now being used to pass major tax programs such as this bill which is guaranteed to add to our financial woes while doing little to nothing for the environment. The short session is not the venue in which to pursue this truly all-encompassing legislation.

And don't try playing the urgency card. It's time to remember, and its time to return to thinking of climate change in terms of thousands of years. Climate change is not a grand progression where we get warmer and warmer until we fry. So lets not even talk about single years or a couple of decades or even a century as incontrovertible evidence of change. Basing public policy on random weather events and claims that are related to earth warming – or cooling – is, again, a political, not a scientific construct.

For the sake of accuracy, this bill ought be called The Cap & Tax Plan as that is precisely what it is. Whether or not it is an "investment" is yet to be seen. What we do know is that if this legislation passes, state agencies budgets will be inflated. Additional energy costs will be incurred – by everyone, all while Oregon is suffering severe budgetary troubles. This is not right. As if anyone needed reminding, there are plenty other issues that need attention at this time. Isn't it a bit of hubris to imagine that we humans can manage the planet's climate when we are not even able to manage our budget?

Individual beliefs about our role in the world shape our sense of duty and responsibility to care for others and our planet. They affect the way we think about climate and how we interpret our role in the changes which are occurring. But we don't all see the world and our relationship with it in the same way. Given that our beliefs do not always converge, it isn't surprising we find that neither do the ways we approach climate change or our responses to it.

Senate Bill 1530 has nothing to do with the health of the planet or the environment. It is about who pays, and who gets paid.

Respectfully,



Richard Wisner

Lincoln County