



Marion County
OREGON

Board of Commissioners

February 7, 2020

(503) 588-5212
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Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senator Alan Olsen, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

**BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

Colm Willis, Chair
Sam Brentano
Kevin Cameron

**CHIEF
ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICER**

Jan Fritz

Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 1530 – On behalf of Marion County Nurseries

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Olsen, and Committee Members:

On behalf of Marion County nurseries, the Marion County Board of Commissioners would like to submit this letter in opposition to Senate Bill 1530, relating to Cap and Trade. SB 1530 will put undue pressure on Marion County nurseries and hurt a vital piece of the county's economy.

Marion County ranks number one in the state for nursery production and has 9,630 acres of land dedicated to nurseries that contribute \$174 million to the county's economy annually. SB 1530 will cause an increase in cost of natural gas which will hit nurseries particularly hard who use it to heat their greenhouses, driers, and other agricultural processes. Currently, electric technology for heating greenhouses doesn't exist and there are no other technologies being developed to help produce heat using another source of power.

SB 1530 is detrimental to nurseries and farmers in Marion County and all of Oregon. It will increase energy and food costs for consumers, raise fuel, fertilizer and energy costs for farmers, and shrink Oregon's agricultural sector, resulting in reduced production. As price-takers, farmers and nurseries have a limited ability to recoup the increased costs associated with production and will be unable to raise their prices to offset the increase in costs that SB 1530 will bring.

We urge to support Marion County nurseries and oppose SB 1530.

Sincerely,

Colm Willis, Chair

Samuel A. Brentano, Vice Chair

Kevin Cameron, Commissioner