

From: [Nikole Young](#)
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Subject: SB 1530: Cap and Trade
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Cap and trade has been on my radar since I watched the June 17th 2019 House debate. I heard how mental health resources were carved out of the bill and how a \$10-million increase in welfare benefits wasn't enough to offset the unemployment Oregon will experience. The negatives came in droves. All I could think was, "People will plummet to the bottom of the Maslow pyramid."

I've been at the bottom of that pyramid. I've worked assembling college football helmets by hand. I lost 20lbs in three months because I couldn't afford food. My only means of transportation, a second-hand moped, was stolen. I slowly worked my way up the pyramid. I started work in a warehouse and eventually afforded online college.

I credit a specific group of people for helping me along my way. They are the working-class people I've been privileged with knowing. Co-workers at the helmet facility gave me furniture. Co-workers at the warehouse taught me the mechanics of my first car. So many impactful moments happened that I'm writing a book about it. I'm humbled by how dignified each person treated me.

The warehouse I worked in was at a power plant. Professionals from the utility's headquarters visited the power plant and treated these people, who extended to me the warmest welcome, like garbage. I was treated like garbage. I know there exist good and bad in every social class. My rebuttal for anyone who tells me that I wear rose-colored glasses is this: What *real* opportunities do these people have? How often are these people given up on? How often do others look at the way a person is dressed and concludes he or she is insignificant?

I recently reread my wedding announcement I wrote for the Clatskanie Chief and it ends with this statement: "Mr. and Mrs. Lucas Young aim to settle down in Clatskanie alongside the loggers, tradesmen, fisherman, homemakers, veterans and all other community members who had a hand in raising them." The people who continue to raise me are the most vulnerable under cap and trade. They are my heroes. I will forever be by their side.

I am a Clatskanie/Rainier resident. I depend on affordable electricity provided by the Clatskanie PUD. So does every other community member I know. It will be a matter of time before Georgia Pacific moves production elsewhere and either sells or shuts down the Wauna Mill if cap and trade is passed. Not only will nearly 1,000 employees within my community be dislocated (not accounting for the ripple effect in other industry job losses), our valuable power-generating resource will be lost. The Wauna Mill's steam produces

energy for our PUD through a cogeneration agreement. I can't imagine any alternatives other than the PUD purchasing power at a higher price and passing that expense onto its customers or the PUD completely disbanding. Who will be there to pick up the pieces? What company will come to our rescue?

I used to work in the electric utilities, and there is really only one option for the PUD to either purchase power from or relinquish its customer base to; Portland General Electric. With the portfolio that Portland General Electric boasts, it makes more sense for the PUC to allow Portland General Electric over any other power provider to expand deep into our territory.

This is why I have a problem with that: lip service. I know that Portland General Electric's CEO Maria Pope is a voting Board member for Oregon's Global Warming Commission. I know that she is an advocate for the cap-and-trade bill and I know that she (or perhaps the many people who work directly under her) worked with Senator Dembrow to create the first cap-and-trade bill. At the same time that Portland General Electric spouts off "Full Clean Ahead" and "The Future is Electric", Maria Pope is making preemptive deals with legislators for guaranteed carbon credit allowances that facilitate Portland General Electric's continued thermal power plant operations. I personally do not have a specific problem with continued thermal power operations. I have family who work at the Beaver Generating Plant in Clatskanie. I used to work at the Port Westward power generating plant next door. It is the hypocrisy of these actions that concerns me; the blatant disregard for genuine climate action because Portland General Electric will increase profits while they pollute and make us destitute due to their indefinite exemptions. My community will lose not just by the loss of jobs due to the Wauna Mill shutting down, but also due to the skyrocketing power bills we residents will pay if cap and trade is passed. It will kill small business. It will kill our schools. It will kill us.

Let Oregonians vote on climate legislation. Why not refer this monumentally life-changing piece of paper to us? I feel governed by dictators. I am not an uneducated country bumpkin. And, neither are the community members I stand beside. We are hardworking Oregonians whose taxes pay for the lights inside our state's capitol building. I suggest we be a democracy. Let us decide, have a voice, and steer our state. We the people.

Nikole Young
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