

Members of the Oregon State House

I am writing you today on behalf of my family along with the many other families like mine out there. I left my full time job as a deputy with the Washington County Sheriff's Office for nearly 10 years in order to be home for my family after the birth of our son. Having two parents in a job where you are not promised to come home at the end of the day was not something I was prepared to raise my son around. On the side, we had started an alpaca farm. We have been involved with the industry for 13 years now. I am now home for our farm and readily available for our family. We opened a boutique a few years ago where we are able to sell some of the products made from the fiber of our animals. This is my way of contributing to our income. Without this, I will have to go back to work, lose our farm, and my son will lose the support of his mother, the very foundation of this home.

We have spoken with multiple resources out there within our industry to include our hay farmer on how cap and trade would affect them. Our farmer explained very simply the increased costs would basically cause him to have to shut down his own farming operation. This would likely force him to relocate in his family elsewhere due to costs. It's hard to go from charging \$380 a ton of hay to \$900 and have people actually be able to afford it. This would force us to find hay elsewhere and likely out of state, which we rely to get here to us by truck. And of course all the costs for the hay would be going up....from the hay per ton to the actual delivery, costs would go up. We already pay close to \$400 a ton for the hay we use to feed our animals.

In regards to the grain we use to help supplement them, its the same story. The costs would go up. And of course costs of shearer to harvest the fiber would go up. And the shipping of the fiber to have products made for my boutique....well, those costs would go up too. I highly doubt anyone would pay close \$400 for sweater these days or \$50 for a pair of socks. And yes, this is what my costs would have to go up to in order to make some kind of profit. But if I'm brutally honest I likely would have to close everything down and sell the animals. It would just cost too much money. Then that leaves me with the decision of how do I bring money in to help our family. Do I go back to law enforcement? I can't live with my son being raised with 2 parents working in that environment. So then I go elsewhere and likely take a job that doesn't work with my sons school hours, so who gets him to school? Who picks him up? Who takes care of him outside of school? And who ends up raising him? I can't live with that, nor can we afford that. The child care alone costs more than most people make in a day. I can't live every day knowing I'm not home for our son we chose to bring into this world.

So then that brings us back to square one....What do I do to bring money in to help us as a family survive in this ever increasing taxed state we continue to live in.....Likely the answer is we don't. We'd likely have to move.

Lets talk on a broader scale for a moment. The costs of getting you to work each day, the gas costs would go up, so now you spend more money on gas. That milk you bought at the store, the cost of that just went up, because the cost for the farmer with his cows went up and the cost of trucking that to the store went up. The house you live in.....you can thank a logger, a trucker, a heavy hauler and all those who partook in building that house. Everything around us is built and created by these blue collar hard working men and women, like me.

If we want to solve climate issues, lets start at the source of the problem.....Why are we not supporting local businesses where we don't drive so far or cause them to drive so far to us? Less driving means less emissions.....For example, that beef burger you just ate last night or last weekend for dinner at that chain restaurant likely didn't come from a local farmer. So you, yes you are part of the problem too. Lets start with each individual person and work out from there by making changes.

I was proud to stand with Timber Unity on Thursday February 6. I was proud to stand with hard working men and women who will all be affected greatly by the current bill as its written. I'm even more proud to say Timber Unity presented their own ideas, solutions to this ever increasing problem.

This is not a one sided ordeal and I get that. But there are solutions out there and we can come together on that.

I urge you to not support this Cap and trade bill. Lets work with some of the solutions Timber Unity presented that won't affect the hard working men and women of this state financially. Lets find solutions to this that don't involve taxing everyone to such a degree it begins to threaten jobs and economy. The people of Oregon understand this bill just fine and we have read it. And we understand the devastation it could cause us all individually as well as what it can cause on this state.

I'm born and raised Oregonian and I love it here. Please don't support this bill. Don't tax us to such a degree we financially begin to crumble. Don't take my farm from me. And don't take me away from my son.

Please do not support the Cap and trade bill!

Thank you

Leanne Stoneberg
Stoneberg Alpacas