

January 19, 2020

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:
Salem, Oregon

My name is Susan Snyder, I'm 5th generation Oregonian. My mother's people were all involved in the timber industry. My father's people were all farmers/ranchers. My husband and I plus our 4 adult children and their families are all involved in agriculture. If we didn't take care of our lands and be good stewards, we would be out of business. Conservation is our way of life. My husband was named Gilliam County Conservation Farmer of the year in the mid-70's. Conservation of our natural resources ensures the continuation of our way of life.

I do not believe that SB 1530 does anything to enhance that. Instead, it places an unrealistic burden on most Oregonians, and particularly those rural residents.

Oregon does not have a carbon emission problem – China does! Oregon's forests sequester about 11 billion tons of carbon dioxide equivalents and annually withdraw 23 million to 63 million additional tons from the atmosphere according to the Global Warming Commission's figures. Oregon has one of the cleanest economies in the country. The extremely tiny improvement provided by this bill will not make ANY difference worldwide. Support our farms, fishermen and timber businesses and you won't need to levy a tax against the very businesses who capture and sequester carbon.

This bill will not decrease global greenhouse emissions. It will drastically reduce Oregon's business footprint and increase financial impacts statewide, but specifically in the rural regions of our state. It makes our natural industry based businesses much less competitive, adds costly and time-consuming paperwork to industries already overburdened with needless recordkeeping.

Increased fuel costs will result from implementation of SB 1530 in all areas of the state regardless of the proposed exemption for the rural regions. Propane costs will increase and since propane is used extensively in rural areas for heating and cooking this presents an unfair burden to rural residents. Wood stoves are not an environmentally acceptable option, neither is coal, and electricity is expensive and generated either by fossil fuels or water – both are not “appropriate” according to environmental groups.

Personally, I also resent the intimation that this bill is too “complex” for the average voter to understand, so the legislature must attach an emergency clause because we are all too “dumb” to vote appropriately.

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