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February 11, 2020

Re: HB 4159

Dear Committee,

Bill Harvey
Commission Chair
bharvey@bakercounty.org

Baker County opposes HB 4159 and all of the other greenhouse gas/climate change bills that are being forced upon us by the Oregon supermajority.

This is a huge misuse of the Emergency Clause and should be put to the vote of the people. The very fact that it is being declared an emergency shows that proponents do not think that it will pass.

HB 4159 increases bureaucracy by establishing an entire office within the Administrative Services Department to advise on the development of the Oregon Climate Action Plan. The Administrative Department is not a department of scientists, conservationists, or natural resource based disciplines. Why would a science based office be placed there unless there is not science behind the increased taxes that the entire fleet of greenhouse gas/climate change propose?

And more Committees and Boards? The expansion of government overreach is being achieved by those who are not elected to make decisions and are not necessarily representative citizens.

HB 4159 will increase the costs for garbage disposal through additional methane regulations of our landfills. Already over-regulated, landfills will pass on reduction methods to patrons.

As a solution, instead of taxing everything, try incentives: pay for recycling, provide funding for processing operations so garbage is not sent to other countries for reclamation, and actively promote environmentally friendly packaging.

Baker County opposes HB 4159. It is another tax that is being forced on residents without going through the voting process.

Sincerely,

Bill Harvey, Chair
Baker County Commission