

From: [Keith LaHaie](#)
To: [LRO](#)
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to SB1504
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 8:39:59 AM

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

My wife and I are strongly opposed to SB1504 and any other measure related to “*cap and trade*.” Therefore, we respectfully request that you reject SB1504 without further action. We understand that SB1504 is an unassuming bill that exists only to provide direction to the Department of Environmental Quality. However, it is the subject of that direction – a revenue study - which validates our primary concern about “*cap and trade*.”

We feel that “*cap and trade*” is nothing more than a cash and power grab, as well as a massive wealth transfer from hard working Oregonians to politically favored industries and contractors. The contrived carbon-trading market that will be created by this legislation could provide massive profits to wealthy investors – some of whom, operating outside of Oregon and even the U.S., will return none of that wealth to this state.

“*Cap and trade*” represents \$700 million in additional taxation - just to start! Tax dollars that will be extorted from hard-working citizens! We are very concerned about the supermajority’s increasingly insatiable appetite for, and mismanagement of – hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

The short session was not designed to accommodate the deliberation of controversial legislation such as “*cap and trade*.” SB1504 is directly related to “*cap and trade*,” so it has no place in the short session. The Senate Majority leader even said: “*The purpose of the short session is to deal with budget matters and urgent matters that can’t wait until the long session.*”

It’s outrageous that the legislative supermajority intends to use the February “short session” as a bludgeon to ram through several sweeping and impactful pieces of “*cap and trade*” legislation. This blatant abuse of the short session is a violation of the voter’s trust.

Oregon is not responsible for climate change, and Oregon’s “*cap and trade*” scheme will do nothing at all to impact the climate! Oregon’s emissions have decreased and will continue to decrease organically over time. The state’s own Greenhouse Gas Emissions report asserts “*Oregon’s population has increased 43 percent since 1990 while in-state emissions per capita have decreased in the same time period. Since 2011, Oregon’s in-state production emissions per capita have stayed relatively flat, around 13 MTCO_{2e} per person.*” Some federal reports show Oregon’s per capita CO₂ emissions at less than 10 metric tons – among the lowest in the country.

Further reductions can and should be achieved without the massive government intervention that “*cap and trade*” represents. All of the “*cap and trade*” bills being proposed establish improbable and, in our opinion, unattainable emissions reductions – standards that are based on completely unrealistic assumptions on the availability of technology that will be needed in order to meet those standards.

As the Legislature well knows, the ability to control CO2 emissions is the ability to control the economy, energy, land, people and resources. This equates to a massive and unacceptable expansion of government power that we will strongly resist.

SB1504 (and all other “*cap and trade*” legislation before the Legislature) is a direct result of the increasing climate hysteria promoted by extremist environmental groups such as Renew Oregon and Southern Oregon Climate Action.

Oregonians will incur substantial costs due to “*cap and trade*” while receiving no benefits in return. We are the real “stakeholders” here, not the environmental extremists who are dictating our futures and risking our prosperity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Keith and Tami LaHaie