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It makes “We the People”, feel better to come and voice our feelings / bare our souls, about decisions being made by our government, but, from the blank looks on your faces, I wonder if you are listening or have you already made up your mind and are just going through the rubber stamp procedure of having a public hearing because it's required? Until four years ago I did not know how government works. Since then I have become enlightened and with knowledge comes sorrow.

Having said that; I hope this cap and trade bill, HB 1530, is what it is being promoted to be, & not just another way to take money from the masses. Similar to removing the severance tax for people owning 5,000 acres or more of timberland. I.E. every timber industry/ forest company in Oregon.

I would like to add, I found it interesting when J Browning, [\(J.M. Browning | Logging, Trucking, Construction\) was timed out,](#) he let out a little grunt and was encouraged to go ahead and finish his testimony. The rest of us were interrupted and shut down. Interesting? Fair?

Ignoring court orders, court ordered subpoenas, walking out and refusing to attend a session instead of doing the job that one has been elected to and is being paid to do, (which is to negotiate in good faith.) What kind of example is our government setting?

I am hopeful that you have come up with a solution to Dallas Heard and any other senate members (members who have had their campaigns bought and paid for by the timber industry.) to make sure they come to

the table on this issue. To try to find some common ground, something to agree upon and move forward.

You have a whole segment of southern Oregonians who are being led to believe,( by the industry they work for; that their parents and grandparents worked for,) that this legislation will forever end their life as they know it. That may very well be but when one door closes another door opens. Change is rarely welcome and in most instances, feared. There is one constant in life. That is change. Nothing stays the same forever. We (you) need to be sure that change is the most sustainable way currently known for the future of this planet.

My Dad, Mom, both my sisters, myself, all worked in that industry, collectively for over 70 yrs. My husband has worked in the industry for over 44 years. He installs the machines that are automating and eliminating 90% or more of the jobs, so I know it well. I also know there is life outside that industry. Those same people that are “timber unity” don’t even realize the real threat to their jobs, as it is happening almost daily, right next to them. Their jobs are being automated. As their coworkers lose their jobs, 3 at a time, 6 or 8 at a time, the people that still have jobs are grateful and the ones who no longer have a job, they slip quietly away, a few at a time.

When I left my job of over 21 years in that industry, in 1997, there were almost 3000 employees in the complex where I worked, today in that same complex, there are fewer than 30.

You need to know that what you are doing is right. Shut out the noise, keep working and get this bill passed. I hope something can be done to avoid the childish, but effective, tactics that were used by some the last time. We need to be thinking outside our small communities.

This is a global problem, not so much a local problem.

Why should we be the first to take action?

**WHY NOT!** We shouldn’t be followers when we can be leaders!

Thank you,

Have a great day,  
Diana Larson