

Dear Chair Dembrow,

I've calculated the cost impacts to my farm from SB 1530 and the -27 amendment. My family can't afford this policy! Neither can our small businesses that operate in Lane and Linn County. We are being taxed out of business and will soon have to close our doors. There is a small margin in our operation and we try to use that for employee raises and increased costs every year. Thanks to the constant barrage of new fees and taxes, we are unable to sustain this!!

Many farms will face thousands of dollars of new costs under cap-and-trade, and these costs increase every year until 2050.

It takes energy to produce food and fiber, and this is a cost that families, like mine, cannot afford.

Oregon farmers already operate on very thin margins. Cap-and-trade will make us less competitive, and new CAT tax is already doing that!

For farm and ranch families, additional fuel costs or higher fertilizer prices can't simply be passed to the customer. Any extra costs from SB 1530 must be absorbed by the farm. This will squeeze farmers, like me, at a time when trade pressures are threatening the viability of our operations. We export a great deal of our product and overseas customers will just seek out another supplier rather than pay the higher cost. We cannot simply pass the cost on to our customers!!

The latest amendments penalize farmers and ranchers who live and work on the west side of the state by taxing their fuels in the first years of the program. This tax creates a competitive disadvantage among farmers across county lines. It's bad policy and will lead to economic hardship.

The -27 amendments weaken protections for farmers who face high natural gas prices in the first year of the program. The amendments threaten ag operations that depend on natural gas to heat their greenhouses and process raw commodities for market. As price-takers, farmers will have to absorb these added costs.

I urge you to oppose SB 1530 and the -27 amendments. Oregon's farm and ranch families and small business can't afford this policy.

Thank you for listening to my concerns and voting "no" on HB 1530 this session.

Sincerely,

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