

My name is Sarah Miley Cooper. I am an Oregon born and raised woman. I grew up in the timber and wild land fire fighting industries. Oregonians in these fields along with agriculture and transportation are the care givers, the stewards of this land, this state and our resources. Much pride is taken in turning the soil, protecting forests from fires, managing timber growths to ensure the next generation has BIG TREES to see. As a child of this genre, I oppose Cap and Trade as it's written and not being given a voice, a VOTE.

I would like to say, unequivocally, that the proposed "emergency session" Cap and Trade SB 1530 legislation as drafted will KILL small businesses in Oregon. To be clear, I am talking about the annihilation of small to mid sized businesses in Oregon that provide valuable goods, services and transport to our nation. What is our, Oregon's, main export- timber and farm goods. Why? There are hundreds of small to mid sized farms, timber companies in this once great state. If this cut-throat bill is shoved through, You- our elected governing body- will be responsible for the death of businesses and the livelihood of YOUR voters, your people.

This legislation creates a BOON for BIG business, business and conglomerates that have the DEEP pockets that the small business owners don't. Business and Buyers outside the state can purchase these so-called credits and sell them. This is called a PONZI scheme. What's worse- it's being proposed by a governmental agency that is supposed to protect and serve the people of this state. This is not a "green" initiative. It's a PONZI tax scheme, a carbon "tax" initiative. This does nothing for the environment. Carbon is still being created. Trees are being cut down. Semis are on the roadways. Heavy equipment will roll. It simply raises the cost of business and shoves the small guy out. You are simply selling the right to do business in our highest employment sectors in this state to the highest bidder.

I strongly oppose this bill on so many fronts. The fact that this is being called an emergency is the most troubling. Rules can be changed and tacking the "emergency clause" onto legislation is a dirty, dirty trick and game. This is a democracy. The people, the ones that voted you as a government IN, should have the say. We should get to vote on this since it's out livelihoods up for grabs, it's a tax package disguised as a credit. There has been murmurs that we as the "people" would not understand the complexities, the nuance of the bill. I respectfully disagree. Blue collar does not equal ignorant. This bill is not complex, it is not unfathomable. It's a death sentence to commerce in Oregon for Oregonians who live off the land and transportation jobs in any way. Calling it an "emergency" is a ploy to keep the bill from going before the voters. It's a way to FORCE legislation onto your state.

I implore you, let the people vote. Bench this proposed legislation. Give your people a voice, the right to vote on the future of OUR state.

Thank you,  
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