

I am writing to strongly oppose SB 1530 and its impacts. I live in Washington County and have ties to high tech industry, however I am also a 6th generation Oregonian who has family ties to the natural resource industries in at least eight Oregon counties. I care about Oregon. We need to support both industries, Oregon technology and agriculture, for a sustainable and healthy environment and economy. We need to listen to all people involved.

Oregon businesses make adjustments to stay environmentally conscious and competitive. But while Oregon closes our only coal plant in Boardman, Oregon, China continues to build hundreds of coal plants in their country and throughout the Third World. So where's the pollution? Lawmakers make zero sense when they treat Oregon Ag like big polluters. Don't they know Oregon Ag grows and maintains carbon eating plants and trees, and does it in a way that respects our environment?

The tech industry is inventing electric trucks and farm equipment. Unfortunately electric technology is not a current option for natural resource industries, not yet, but lawmakers want to punish natural resources industries anyway for not being "green enough" - again. Oregon Ag endures frequent insults. And many people in the metro areas mistakenly believe the natural resource businesses are "big money", "big corporations," they ruin our environment... the list goes on. Please listen to the people who actually live and work in the Oregon natural resource industries, who employ sustainable practices, and constantly improve them.

These practices are used by Oregon agriculture, including farmers who already operate on very thin margins. Gross receipts may look high during the year but after costs (including many taxes and fees and licenses imposed by other regulations) the net is very low. This is the way of agriculture, and these small businesses barely make it. Good years often carry them during the bad ones. Pressures come from many directions. For farm and ranch families, the increased fuel and fertilizer costs can't be passed on to the customer. Many agricultural operations rely on natural gas for greenhouses and processing of raw commodities for market. Trade pressures threaten the viability of operations. The new Oregon CAT tax will already threaten competitiveness locally, nationally, and internationally. The latest amendments of this additional cap and trade law initially pit counties against other counties and eventually, as time goes on, hurts them all.

I went to the Timber Unity Rally. Although all were invited, I was sad to see only one Democrat lawmaker, Senator Betsy Johnson, come outside to listen. Plenty of Republicans attended and listened. Timber Unity is a nonpartisan organization! Their 54,000 Oregonian members are Democrats, Republicans, Independents and all in between. I have heard Democrats say they need to do something, "Because Trump won't". DO NOT BE DIVISIVE on this important issue. I was happy to see the respectful discourse at this respectful gathering. Sincere farmers, ranchers and timber people showed up and spoke with heart, not because they had extra time to spare but because their very livelihoods, families and communities are threatened. There was a palpable urgency that I wish the Democrats had experienced firsthand.

Lawmakers just passed a punishing gross receipts tax, CAT, even though the voters previously voted, "NO." Oregonians said high taxes hurt people, families and their businesses. High taxes cause job loss. The lawmakers did not listen to the Oregonians who voted and they passed the tax anyway.

This new gross receipts tax was sold as something different this time. Lawmakers called it the "Student Success Act". Right now in my community, local INTEL suppliers are raising prices in order to pay the new pyramiding tax, so Intel is forced to buy out-of-state because the local suppliers are no longer

competitive. This happens when in-state businesses are taxed on dollars passing through their business and not on actual profit. How “successful” will our Oregon students be if their parents are put out of work and their businesses fail? Can we please slow down and adjust first before thinking about another punitive tax on the people? This IS NOT ANOTHER EMERGENCY.

If lawmakers want to get serious, be helpful, and talk about carbon, or carbon sequestration, or green technology, they need to stay out of Oregon agriculture and tech businesses. Let our businesses continue to improve our environment with green technology. Let innovation thrive by allowing our businesses to thrive. The demand is already there. And those businesses employ good, conscientious, and smart people who understand what is needed. Additionally, I would like to see evidence of lawmakers showing respect to farmers and ranchers who are among the best stewards of our lands.

Also, there are other ways lawmakers may help. First, lawmakers must say “No” to SB1530. They should encourage positive messages to sustain or increase demand and growth of our local economies such as, “Keep Oregon Green” and “Buy Local”. To buy local is to prevent long distance carbon emissions.

We all need to work together. We all need employment. Above all, let’s use the carrot instead of the stick.

Sincerely,

Lisa Harris

Washington County