

Dear Chair Dembrow,

As a small business owner and NFIB member, I would like to share with you why I oppose Cap & Trade - and ask you to stand-up for small businesses and Oregon families by opposing SB 1530.

Cap & Trade will make living and working in Oregon more expensive - even for those Oregonians lacking the ability to pay more for energy. Many families will bear the cost of increased natural gas rates and higher prices for propane, two key fuels that Oregonians rely on to heat their homes in the cold, winter months.

Transportation fuel prices would also see dramatic increases, on top of the recently enacted gas tax increases authorized by HB 2017 and the implementation of the state's low carbon fuel standard. Based on carbon allowance prices, a gallon of gas could see increases of 16 to 28 cents in the next several years. An analysis of HB 2020 last year by the non-partisan Legislative Revenue Office, estimated a 22 cent per gallon increase in the first year of the program alone.

Cap & Trade not only hurts Oregon residents but also our local businesses. Companies in Oregon will end up paying higher energy and operating costs, resulting in fewer living-wage jobs, which are so important to providing opportunities in rural communities. This will only deepen the economic division between Portland and rural Oregon.

We know that this program if adopted, would increase energy costs for all Oregonians in the form of higher utility bills and higher prices at the pump with virtually no impact on the global climate. For small-business families, the impact of higher energy costs would be twice as painful. We'll pay once for our household energy needs - and then a second time for our businesses.

Please protect Oregon's small and family-owned businesses by opposing Cap & Trade

Sincerely,

James Key
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