

**Dear Oregon State Senators and Representatives,**

**I am one of the many citizens who attempted to testify against Senate Bill 1530**, variously called the 'Carbon Tax' or 'Cap and Trade' or 'Energy Sales Tax' on Thursday February 6, 2020. But I was unable to do so because Senator Dembrow shutdown the Hearing prematurely in an attempt to cut off criticism. Once he had completed the carefully choreographed testimony supporting his perspective, he had no time for the other citizens who came to speak.

**I am also one of two climate experts who showed up to testify. We oppose all the superstitions** that proponents are using to justify this draconian tax on gasoline, diesel fuel, and natural gas. These are the primary fuels that keep Oregon moving and heat our businesses and homes.

**Neither of us were permitted to say anything.** We would have told the Senators that SB 1530 will not make the slightest bit of difference to our climate. NONE! Is that because we disagree with the prevailing climate paradigm? Yes, partly. But as scientists we know that Oregon is just too small to make any difference at all. We are one tenth of one percent of the problem, if there is a problem. *And there is no problem.*

Why did the majority Democrats fail to bring in at least one of their own hand-picked experts to testify that SB 1530 will fix everything wrong with our climate? According to their political talking points, they should have no trouble finding many dozens to counter two. The problem is that no scientist with any quantitative skills will risk his reputation by maintaining that an Oregon Carbon Tax will have any measurable impact on our climate or the global climate, even if we give up our entire way of life and revert to the Stone Age.

**There is no way it is going to get any warmer or colder, drier or wetter, stormier or calmer, unless Mother Nature makes it happen.**

My counterpart at Oregon State University, Professor Phil Mote, is saying exactly what I am saying, that Oregon is simply too small to make any difference, one way or the other. When two scientific experts on opposite sides of this issue tell you the same thing, you should probably pay at least a little attention.

Senator Dembrow clearly did not want to hear anything beyond the superstitious nonsense that his invited speakers presented. They maintained that we are facing a climate catastrophe if we do not agree to a Carbon Tax.

As to that claimed catastrophe, let me just quote what the former President of the US National Academy of Science, Dr. Ralph Cicerone, told the BBC: **“We don't have that kind of evidence.”** Cicerone was one of the premier climate alarmists but unwilling to go along with the worst hysteria.

Other famous warmers including the founding director of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research at the University of East Anglia, Mike Hulme, have said much the same thing: **“To state that climate change will be 'catastrophic' hides a cascade of value-laden assumptions which do not emerge from empirical or theoretical science.”**

Perhaps most remarkable, Gavin Schmidt, who replaced James Hansen at the Goddard Institute of Space Studies and is especially known for his climate advocacy said: **“General statements about extremes are almost nowhere to be found in the literature but seem to abound in the popular media....It's this popular perception that global warming means all extremes have to increase all the time, even though if anyone thinks about that for ten seconds they realize that's nonsense.”**

Many of the superstitious who were invited to speak at the SB1530 hearing thought that extreme weather is getting worse, when the reality is far different. We have not seen a return of the Columbus Day storm of 1962 or the Great Atmospheric River floods during the winter of 1861-62. Our snowpack was low this winter until January brought plenty of snow. The California drought is long gone but sure to return on a cyclical basis. After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, large hurricanes failed to hit the USA for 11 years. That is a once in 500 year occurrence. Tornadoes are down, not up. Forest fires have gone up recently, due to poor forest management. But they have been far less destructive than in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

None of the superstitious had the slightest idea that atmospheric carbon dioxide is overwhelmingly beneficial, indeed essential to life on Earth. Our planet has greened significantly due to more atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, allowing us to feed the seven billion people who call this place home.

As to completely over-the-top nonsense, one man at the hearing even claimed that his father would not be dying of cancer if you had moved to ban fossil fuels sooner. That is one of the most outrageous superstitions we heard. Had I been able to testify, I would have pointed out that even the \$750,000 epidemiological study prepared for the California Air Resources Board (CARB) did not claim any increased cancer mortality from diesel smoke. They claimed to have found a slight increased risk of cardiovascular mortality, but a closer look refuted that. Their faulty analysis actually showed a decreased cancer risk from diesel smoke! I was one of the expert reviewers for that report.

When you are considering technical subjects you need to seek out those of us who have the necessary education to address these subjects. I have a BS in Physics, an MS in Physics, and a PhD in Physics, all from the University of Chicago. These give me credentials similar to the Great Global Warming Guru James Hansen. We are both astrophysicists.

Oregon law requires licensing for many fields, so that the many witch doctors who are scientifically challenged yet claim to know so much about climate do not ruin other professions too.

If you find yourself building a new bridge over the Columbia River, I hope that you will use appropriate Registered Professional Engineers and not allow the grimly ignorant to design it for you.

If we, heaven forbid, face a pandemic from the Chinese coronavirus like we did from the Spanish flu a hundred years ago, I hope you will consult the best and brightest physicians and other genuine public health experts, not the politically useful but scientifically illiterate people promoting SB1530. Our survival could depend on it.

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