

Committee Members,

With our main highway from Central Oregon to Salem closed I am having to submit my opposition to HB 4167 via email.

The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners as well as most rural Counties have sent the Senate a proclamation in opposition of SB 1530. I am in opposition of HB 4167 for the same reasons.

Unlike those of you in the Oregon legislature that live a mere matter of minutes from your big box store, your schools, or your health provider most of my constituents do not. Most of the Tribal Members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs drive nearly 40 miles roundtrip daily to the city of Madras to do these things. We receive many of our goods and services from places that are directly taxed by the legislation in HB 4167 and SB 1530. They inevitably will need to pass that cost on to my constituents. Already the 2nd most distressed county in Oregon, this legislation will absolutely decimate our community and especially my tribal member constituents whose economic vitality is negligible.

The increase in costs for building supplies, transportation of goods and fuel will cease construction of homes, tourism and farm activities in my County.

The Oregon Legislature has received billions of dollars from the taxpayers. Money to study (not fix) homelessness, PERS, schools, health care, etc. Now on the backs of the Oregon worker, you are going to fix global carbon reduction or at least Oregon's minuscule part in it... This isn't the bottle bill, and others both stateside and foreign, will not hold Oregon in any form of esteem for being "the leader" of this type of legislation. Outside of large metropolitan areas, most Oregonians do not find this to be a priority. I say that in the context that our kids, our veterans, and our elderly and the aforementioned issues surely should take priority. Even should you disagree that these do not take precedent over carbon reduction, I have not seen any of these type issues addressed in a manner like this. Using the short session vehicle to pass enormous taxation in emergency clause format is egregious. Good leadership in Oregon would ensure that the priorities of legislation would be fair and equal to all of Oregon. Good legislation would not need political loopholes to further its delivery. Good elected officials would exhibit civility, compassion and compromise to achieve good outcomes for all.

I trust that you will see how we have many more prudent priorities state wide. I encourage finding solutions to reducing our carbon footprint while working even harder to fix those items that will unite our state rather than focusing on one in which we make very little difference globally and is massively divisive to our own citizens.

I strongly encourage your opposition of HB 4167 and other Greenhouse Gas legislation and focus on real Oregon priorities. I also strongly suggest creating such good legislation pertaining to carbon reduction that the voters of Oregon will pass it unanimously. We care, really we do! Lastly, much like playing the lottery, this legislation greatly hurts the poorest of our constituents. However, unlike playing the lottery, they didn't consciously choose to lose.

Thank You!

Kelly Simmelink
Jefferson County Commissioner

66 SE D Street
Madras,OR 97741
C 503.730.6573
O 541.475.2449