

February 20, 2020

Dear Representatives and Senators:

Subject: HB4167

I get the distinct feeling that our elected representatives are playing hide the ball with the voting public. I had previously written to you in opposition to HB4159 and SB1530. Now I must write to you in strong opposition to HB4167.

Oregon contributes less than 1% of all U.S. CO₂ emissions (actually 0.7%). This is not an emergency that Oregon will solve. This legislation is not “necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety.” Oregon declaring an emergency that only cooperation of nations can address is like the mouse in the city saying the city’s waste production will be significantly addressed by reducing its own intake and consequent waste production. The hubris of this legislation is incredible!

How many states have per capita CO₂ emissions more than Oregon? Forty-six, Senators and Representatives, 46! Kentuckians have more than three (3) times the per capita CO₂ emission of Oregonians.

How is this an emergency? Does anyone in the Oregon legislature really believe that taking this action is going to make a spec of difference when the U.S. has already been reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Instead, it will harm the Oregon economy.

Yet, China is building coal fired power plants by the dozens. Instead of recognizing the unique nature of power production in the Pacific Northwest with our hydroelectric, wind, and nuclear facilities, our Oregon legislature attempts to take this draconian action. An emergency? Absolutely not!

Also, I find more and more electric cars on our Oregon roads and highways. Homes are being retrofitted with more efficient insulation and highly efficient heating and air conditioning. The people are already taking responsible actions to reduce their carbon footprints. Instead, this action by the legislature will impose harsh and unnecessary taxation and additional costly growth of government and its attendant regulation.

Finally, I point out that total U.S. CO₂ emissions in 2018 were 22.5% less than emissions in 2013 (<https://www.eia.gov/environment/emissions/carbon/>).

I strongly urge you to vote against this bill should it be put to your vote.

Respectfully,

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