

**From:** [Alexis Cain](#)  
**To:** [HRULES Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** HB4167  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 12:50:50 PM

---

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chair Drazen, Vice-Chair Smith Warner, and Committee Members Fahey, Nosse, Sprenger, and Zika,

My name is Alexis Cain, and I am a concerned Oregonian regarding the financial impact this bill proposes to my life. I urge you to take strong considerations on the actual impact of this bill on everyday Oregonians, small business owners, farmers, foresters, fisheries, and rural communities, and I urge you to vote no on HB4167.

Oregon Agriculture is very unique. We produce over 220 crops, and 80% of those crops leave the state, with around half of those crops being exported out of the United States (<https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/shared/Documents/Publications/Administration/ORAgFactsFigures.pdf> and <https://oregonfresh.net/education/ag-facts-figures/oregon-facts-figures/>). These products are exported as a result of our proximity to the Pacific Ocean and exceptional quality. We've worked hard to develop relationships with other countries to provide high quality agriculture exports. Oregon is the number 1 producer for many products, but that does not mean we are the only producer. Should costs dramatically increase for our goods, there will be nothing holding our customers, whether domestic or international, from finding these goods elsewhere.

Oregon's carbon footprint is already small in comparison to the global scale. While the agriculture industry is listed as an emitter, it should also be known that they aid in the carbon storing process. Plants breathe in CO2 and exhale Oxygen (<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/51289/a-global-garden-plants-storing-carbon>). The CO2 that plants "breathe" is changed to sugars to create leaves/stems/roots/woody trunks. All crops (plants) help store carbon; however, the perennial crops store even more carbon throughout their lifetime. Some of these perennial crops include grass seed, tree crops (such as hazelnuts, cherries, pears, and timber), Christmas trees, blueberries, cherries, and many more.

I sincerely urge you to take agriculture and forestry into consideration when making legislation that will severely impact their industries -- especially when they are already sequestering carbon. Our industries are reliant upon competing nationally and competing globally. Oregon agriculture generated a value 1.865 billion in 2017. They are not a small industry, and their impact should not be belittled.

Our price-taking industries cannot take another tax, or tax-like program, and we cannot take another policy. The "carve-outs" do not address the stacking of costs from those industries that are not carved-out. After the CAT tax last session, it would simply not become sustainable to be a business-owner in this beautiful state. I firmly believe there are better ways for Oregonians and Oregon businesses to reduce their carbon footprint, and it can be encouraged through other means of legislation than taxation. Some excellent ways to encourage behavior of businesses and individuals would be legislation that funds support systems for upgrading equipment (i.e. newer trucks/diesel machines for businesses or more fuel-efficient vehicles for individuals) or provide tax credits to individuals who purchase/use a bus/train/light rail/carpool system. A "cap and trade" is *not* the only tool Oregon has to reduce its environmental impact, and our legislators should stop creating legislation that dominates like it is our "last" option.

In conclusion, I firmly urge you to take a stance with hardworking, rural Oregonians and several Oregon counties and vote no on HB4167.

Thank you for your time,

Alexis Cain  
Resident, Albany, OR  
[alexisjeannecain@gmail.com](mailto:alexisjeannecain@gmail.com)