

Dear Committee members,

I am submitting my testimony against HB 4167. On February 6th 2020 thousands of Oregonians came to our State Capital to rally against this job killing bill. I know you heard us, but did you truly hear us? I have my doubts that you did hear our voices.

There were thousands that showed up to protest against SB 1530 the mirror copy of this bill on February 6th, and many offered testimony to that bill, so why is basically the same bill is before you? Well it is nothing but a shell game. You all know HB 4167 is a well known bill number, and this one is not? Why is that, well politics is the answer. The same things that are wrong for Oregon in SB 1530 is just as wrong with 4167. I will explain in my following remarks.

During the February 6, 2020 on SB 1530 the sister bill to this one's, hearing I heard a few people talk about forest fires. Why do we have devastating forest fires? I heard it blamed on climate change, which is not the main cause. Have any of you taken a walk deep into our forest? Have you seen all of the under brush and smaller trees? Have you seen that our forest are in desperate need of thinning? How do we fix that fact? The answer is to send our forest warriors, the Loggers in to thin our forest and under brush. If our forest land is maintained the fire risk will go down. Just like you maintain your car and home, we need to maintain our forest. A healthy forest will also keep carbon dioxide levels down. The answer to keep our carbon down is healthy trees. Healthy forests convert carbon into clean air. Also in the February 6th hearing, I heard testimony saying how devastating wild fires in the past have been, and admitted carbon into the air in Southern Oregon, but where did the Biscuit and Chetco Fires start? On Federal not State owned lands. The Federal Government owns many more millions acres of forest land than our State Government, so nearly all of the carbon released in these fires was from Federal controlled land. How are you going to fix that issue? HB 4167 does nothing in this area. Forest management is key to this issue.

Now let's move onto one of the fees, also known as a tax, in this bill. Gas prices could go up to 79 cents per gallon according to some estimates. I am betting that some who wrote this legislation thought it would stop people from driving as much. Much like a sin tax on cigarettes and alcohol, and hoping more people would use public transportation. In rural Oregon that can be near impossible, because it's not a viable option. Many who live in rural Oregon have to travel a hundred or more miles to see a medical specialist, because they are few and far between. Those of you who live in the city don't have this problem, but we do. Gas prices are already high in rural Oregon and harm families, and this would add to it. Again in the first hearing on this bill it was said to look at California, so let's do that. As of February 7th 2020 the average price in California is \$4.03 a gallon and \$3.43 on Oregon. Now this is just the average, and in many areas it is much higher. According to KQED in San Francisco on June 27, 2019 article 41.7 cents per gallon is because of environmental restrictions, and it went up to 47.3 cents on July 1, 2019. With this in mind the average gallon in Oregon would be \$3.90. In rural areas it would be even higher. All goods and services in the state will cost more because of this. Harming many of Oregon's families. Meaning economically harming families even more. The cost of living in Oregon is climbing and this would make the issue worse.

This bill 4167 will cost jobs for workers, yes, I know there is money in this bill for retraining for workers in green jobs, most of which aren't available yet. Yes, you can retrain for a job, but for many Oregonians it is a way of life. For example, it would be like you retraining to become a Logger or Farmer, or a Logger or Farmer retraining to become an English or Law Professor at Portland State University. We in rural Oregon love to be close to the land, just like you love to live in the city. We love being close to the land

that we make our living off the land either directly or indirectly. We don't want to live the urban life. This bill will kill many small towns, schools, jobs, and industries, and in killing them it will kill a way of life.

In closing, I know how hard it can be being a member of a governing body, and trying hard to do your best for all. I am a former City Councillor for the small town of Myrtle Point, Oregon, in Coos County. I also grew up in that small town. I have seen first hand the harm of poor environmental policy can cause in the Spotted Owl in the 1990's. The tax base of that town, and county are gone. In Myrtle Point there was four gas stations, and now there is just one. I have seen to many businesses go under, and 1,000's of jobs lost all because of environmental laws or policies. We never had a vote on said laws or policies, so I implore you to change that! Let the people of Oregon vote on HB 4167!! Let us have a say in our survival. Let us vote, because it is the right thing to do. I urge you to truly hear us, and not just our horns!!

Thank you,
Jamie Myers, Dallas, Oregon
Formally of Myrtle Point, Oregon

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Note: Please use discretion with your personal information in written testimony (i.e., do not add personal information you do not want the public to see). All meeting materials, including your name and any personal information contained in the submitted documents, are posted to the Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS) and are accessible to all major search engines, including Google, Bing, and Yahoo.

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