

Hi,

A bit about me to give context: I'm a "born and bred" Oregonian who has lived here all of my life, outside my study abroad opportunities in college. I was raised in rural Clackamas County, attended Linfield College in McMinnville, where I got my BA in International Business and a Minor in Spanish, moved to Salem in 2002, as a direct result of 9/11, and moved to Keizer, where I currently reside, in 2017. I worked for DHS Child Welfare for 11 years, but finally had to make a change to help people who *want* to be helped and I am now a mortgage Loan Officer serving English and Spanish speaking clients.

I am firmly and absolutely opposed to these bills. Many of my arguments you've no doubt heard from many others like me who are in opposition. These reasons include:

- 1- The increased taxes, which impacts consumer prices, for gasoline, natural gas, and other utilities which impacts in turn the livability of every resident of this state
- 2-Special Interest carve outs that create an unequal impact on businesses and individuals in this state. This is not ethically nor morally right.
- 3-A tax "rebate" for low and lower income people/families does not impact the immediate decisions on whether to pay the household utilities, buy gas to get to and from work or put food on the table or pay for medical needs. These individuals and families I will discuss more in a bit.
- 4-Last count I saw was 22 of the 36 Counties in Oregon are making proclamations and/or statements opposing this legislation, including my County, Marion.
- 5-There is no official economic nor fiscal impact statement on these bills, but a rough guesstimate one that I saw come out recently stated this bill would require \$22,000,000 from the General Fund to get started and would require many additional workers as well as a new department within the government. This is a huge concern since you passed the CAT tax just last year, 2019, due to your beliefs we didn't have enough funding in the General Fund to meet current obligations. Where will this new funding come from then? By the way, I'm opposed to the CAT tax too! It's a back door sales tax that voters have vehemently opposed at the ballots for years!
- 6-This sets up a new bureaucracy that has no oversight by the legislature of the state nor the voters. Therefore, there are no checks and balances to keep the bureaucracy on target with the goals of this legislation, nor to prevent intentional fraud and mismanagement. Especially due to the intentional lack of transparency in this bill that prevents records from being open to the legislature AND the public.
- 7-There is no proof nor guarantee that this legislation will have any success nor any impact on the climate.
- 8-Oregon already has vast improvements in the per capita amount of Carbon produced in this state.
- 9-Carbon is required for a healthy environment as it's what all trees and plants need in order to survive and thrive. Otherwise, plant nurseries wouldn't intentionally pump it into their greenhouses.

I could go on and on with other reasons, but there is one I wanted to expand on, because I do speak Spanish and because I frequently come in contact with the Hispanic/Latino population that Oregon's governor so proudly seeks to protect with the sanctuary laws. There are many, many documented immigrants living around Oregon, many of whom are Hispanic/Latino. Many of these immigrants, especially the first generation ones coming from Mexico, have very little education. Due to their low levels of education and their limited ability to communicate in English, these people, who come to me for help in making the American Dream of Home Ownership come true, are limited in the types of jobs that are available to them. They are usually limited to working on farms, ranches, orchards, Christmas tree farms, and manufacturing jobs. These are the very businesses that will suffer the MOST harm from this legislation. Manufacturing requires electricity, which this will tax more. In order to compete with similar business in their industry in other states and countries, the Oregon companies could face job loss, inability to provide earned pay raises and it could cause them to go out of business when they can't compete financially. The same with the agricultural businesses with their need for more gas and other fuels to manage their vast properties in time efficient ways. Additionally, this population group, usually has more limitations on where they can find housing that is affordable to them, so they usually have to commute for their jobs, and this legislation will increase their expenses in getting to and from work. You seek to protect them on one hand, but harm them, and their dreams for a brighter future, in the other with legislation like this!

It is basic economics that explains that when you increase taxes on something, it will be passed on to the consumer, one way or another. The business is not in business to give away all of their money. That's a charity. The business exists because the owner of the business sees a need in the community and seeks to fill it while also providing for their own and their family's needs. The business owner cannot absorb the costs of increased taxes without consequences to their own households, so the costs are passed on to others. If you do not understand these basic principles of economics, then it's time for you to go back to school and study up on it. You've said, in at least one version of the bill, that the three counties that make up the Portland area would be the first ones to get the increased gas tax. If you truly believe that will not impact every part of the state, then you show ignorance of economics and the way commerce works. Portland is a traffic hub in this state, so many means of transporting goods passes through Portland to get to other parts of the state in their normal course of business. This means that many times, a truck or other means of transport, will have no choice but to gas up when in the tri-county area which will increase the costs of transporting those goods and that increase will mean the costs of the goods transported will also go up. Simple economics... Additionally, the size of the tri-county area means that there are many low and lower-income individuals and families living in the area that will also be impacted by the increased costs forced by this legislation. I know one disabled, elderly woman who's sole income isn't enough to even pay rent on a studio apartment without subsidized assistance. Are you intending to make her, and others like her, home-bound because they can't afford the gas needed to get to the doctor or grocery store when they're having to pay increased utilities at home? Let alone the increased prices of the goods they need to survive, like food and toiletries that were transported to the stores at increased fuel costs.

It's a vicious cycle, but you CAN prevent this harm to them and to the rest of us. Just vote NO to HB4167, SB1530 and all other related legislation on Cap and Trade. There are other, far more effective ways to manage carbon output and to improve our environment and climate. This is not a task for just Oregon. It's a global task and it is NOT an emergency. The world is not going to end tomorrow over our carbon output. Time can be taken to draft better solutions that do not cause such drastic harm to so very many people in such a small section of the world. I love Oregon and the beauty of our natural areas, including where I grew up, surrounded by trees and animal life. Listen to those who best understand our forests and agriculture, our loggers, farmers and ranchers, as they are the experts in those fields of study since they do that work every-single-day. We've had far too many false cries of "wolf" when it comes to climate emergencies, that never panned out the way they were claimed, to go down their irreversible path of destruction with this legislation.

Just say NO to HB 4167, SB 1503 and all other related legislation!

Susan Dunfee
Keizer, Or