

I urge you to vote NO on HB 4167 and refer this to the people for vote.

With the exception of a few years serving in the US Army, I have lived in Douglas County since my family moved here in 1967. My father and his brother started a small construction company and built a few roads in the area. When you have a small family-owned company, everyone in the family works for the company. While my father, mother, and brothers ran equipment, I cared for my little sister and made sure the house was clean and everyone had a good meal when they came home. On the weekends, I washed trucks. As I grew older, I took over bookkeeping for the business. I am intimately aware of how small the profit margin is for a small business.

Two of my brothers, my sister, and our families still live in Douglas County within 30 miles of each other. We love it here. The mountains, dunes, rivers and lakes have been our playground and we are passing our love of this great state on to our children and grandchildren. But we are concerned about what we are passing on. Will we continue to mismanage our resources until our beautiful forests are gone? Will our grandchildren be able to afford to live in our beautiful state? Can they follow in their ancestors footsteps and own their own business?

The bill you are proposing will eliminate the profit for small businesses and many larger companies. They can't afford an increase in fuel costs and will certainly struggle to buy new equipment or "credits". What happens when those companies leave the state? This will impact more than rural areas and small business. Everyone will be affected as costs are passed on to consumers.

The bill you are proposing will not have a significant impact on climate change and Oregon is already making progress towards reducing greenhouse gasses. Take a look at your own data.

We need a better plan. We can have a healthy environment where people can afford to work and play. Our children and grandchildren deserve better.

I urge you to vote no to HB 4167. Send it to the people for a vote. Work with rural Oregonians to implement a plan that works for everyone. Thank you.

Evelyn Coble
Winston, OR