I am writing to urge our legislators to reject HB 4167 (and SB1530).

Another day, another "Cap and Trade" proposal that is a HUGE omnibus bill that has too little time for proper vetting. This short session is not a good place to be talking about such lifealtering policy-changing legislation like this. Added to that is the lateness, even in this short session, of the bill being scheduled it almost seems like a purely political move. As some have called it a bait-and-switch, after opposition to SB1530 and the questioning of chamber of origin and other questions have been raised about the revenue collection process of the senate bill.

As a resident of the rural Halsey area I'm worried about the impact of Cap and Trade on rural residents, especially in fuel costs. Many rural residents in our state have NO CHOICE but to use propane for heating. I am concerned for my elderly and low-income neighbors who do not have the means to pay for propane heating if this is made into law. It may mean that many rural Oregonians will have to choose between heat and food.

It will also raise the cost of gas for ALL of us. We've already had an increase in gas tax in 2020 so those services are now more expensive to reach, and will become more so when Cap and Trade is enacted. For rural residents it's a hard blow.

I'm also concerned that the bill offers no clear path to replacing lost jobs. My father lost his job in the 1980's timber crash. They were promised that tourism jobs would replace the lost timber jobs. It never did. My family was plunged into poverty and we had to leave the state for my father to find work. The town we left behind, Klamath Falls, has never fully recovered from the timber crash. For that matter neither have places like Sweet Home or Saint Helens. The current Cap and Trade proposal will do the same across Oregon. Towns where mills and industry provide good living wage jobs will be devastated.

It is clear that the voice of rural Oregonians remains unheard as this legislation is still on the table. I am opposed to this Cap and Trade proposal and I hope that my representatives will stand with me in opposition to HB4167.

Sincerely, Arwen McGilvra Halsey, OR