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Committees

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OREGON STATE LEGISLATURE
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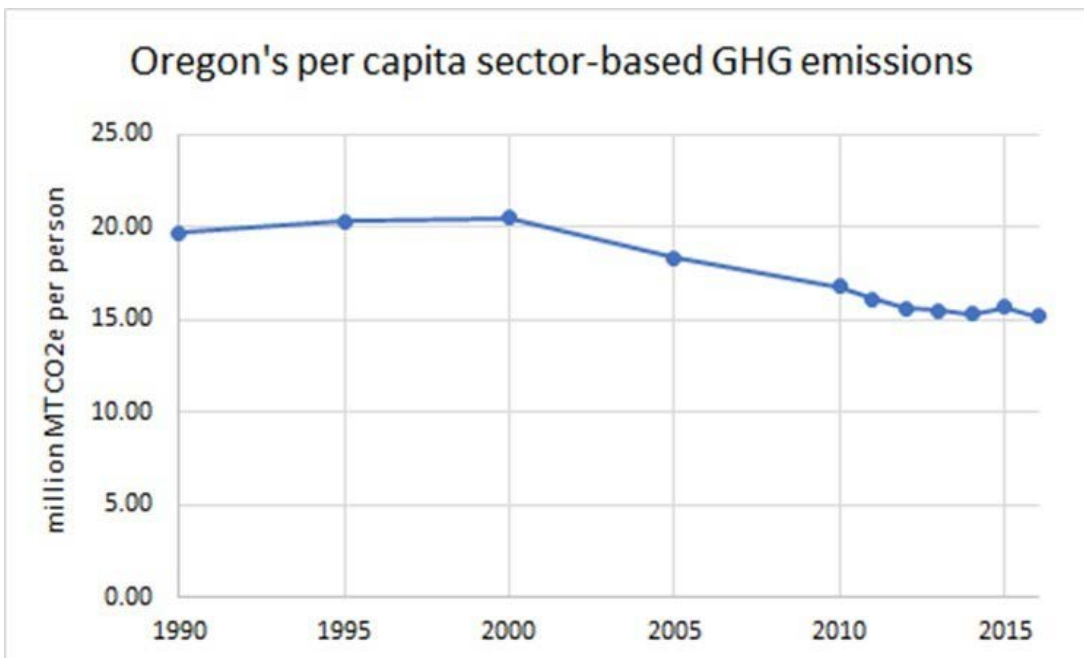
HB 4167

Colleagues of the Joint Subcommittee on Natural Resources,

Having been involved with the Cap & Trade legislation in the Oregon Legislature for a number of years and served as the Co-Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction during the 2019 Legislative Session, I respectfully request the adoption of the -2 amendments that I have submitted into the record.

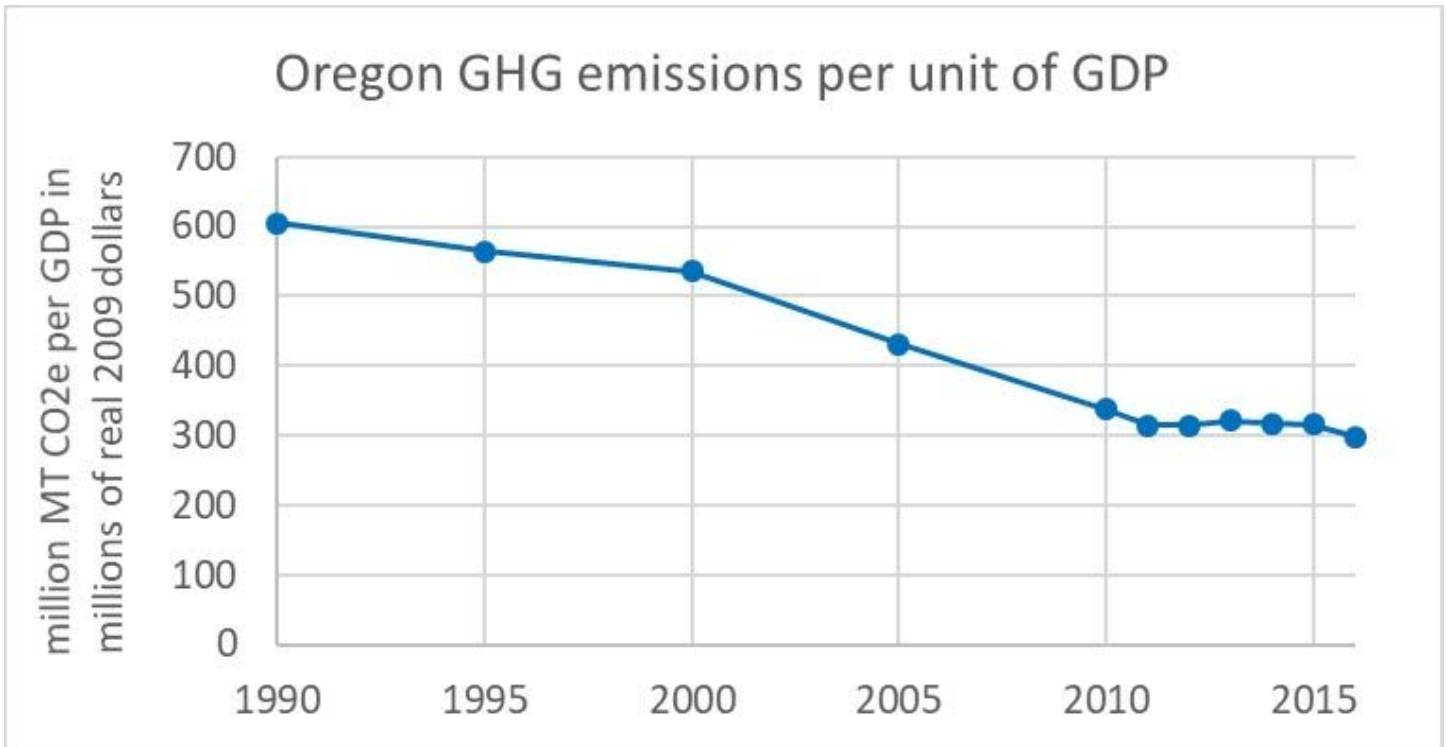
Oregon only produces 0.14% of greenhouse emissions on the global scale, this according to data from the Oregon Global Warming Commission. Even the Director of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality; during my questioning in committee, agreed saying, "Representative Brock Smith you are correct. That Oregon's portion of global carbon emissions is, I'll use the word minuscule." When Dr. Philip Mote, Director, Oregon Climate Services and Oregon Climate Change Research Institute was asked by me what the impact would be on the global climate if Oregon were to reduce their emissions to zero, he responded the impact would be, "Imperceptible."

Nearly half of our anthropogenic emissions (which are emissions created by people, their driving, industries, business, etc.) are already sequestered by our forests in this state, every single year! The Oregon Grass Seed Industry in our state alone, sequesters over 2 million metric tons of carbon annually according to a study by OSU.

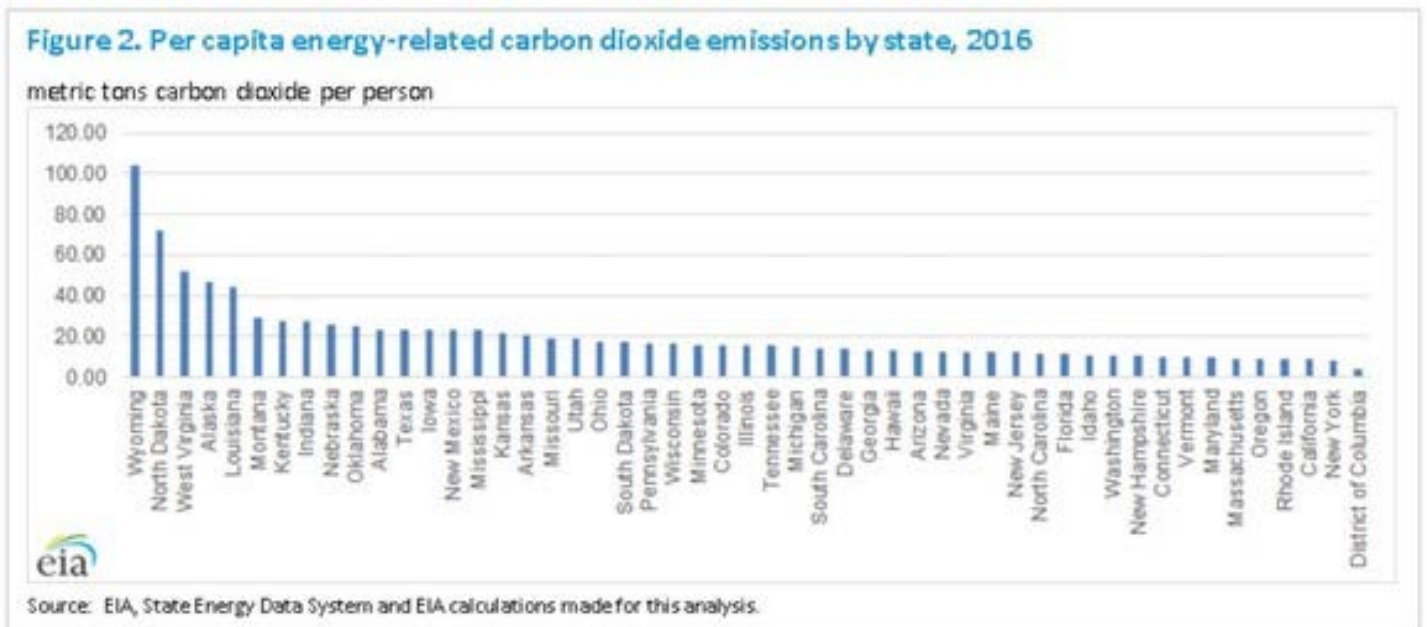


HB 3543 (the governing legislation that started all of this) does not indicate whether GHGs should be measured in the aggregate or on a per capita basis. This is an important distinction given Oregon’s population growth since the legislation passed in 2007 and the overall greater population growth since 1990.

When measured on a per capita basis, Oregon GHG emissions in 2017 were actually 21% lower than 1990 levels. We have more than doubled the 10% emissions reduction goal and done so—three years ahead of the deadline. When using only data provided by the Commission through the year 2016, per capita emissions have declined by 22.8%. Although Oregon’s population grew by over 1.3 million people, emissions continued to decline. All prior to ANY climate or carbon reduction legislation implemented by the legislature.



Oregon, our industries, GDP and population continues to grow, emissions have continued to decline. This decline has again occurred prior to the implementation of costly GHG (Green House Gas) reduction legislation.



Source: EIA, State Energy Data System and EIA calculations made for this analysis.

Oregonians and their industries have; in spite of our tremendous growth, continued to reduce GHG emissions. In fact, Oregon is the 5th lowest carbon emissions in the US and we're less than one percent away from being the 2nd lowest in the Nation!

Colleagues, the -2 amendments are a bipartisan approach to reducing emissions and sequestering carbon in Oregon.

Here is what the -2 amendment does:

1. Defines in statute that the measurement of GHG emissions will be per capita.
2. Includes the sequestration benefits of our natural and working lands across the state.
3. Creates an Oregon Carbon Credits Offset Program for investments in further sequestration.

Per Capita measurement is a better standard when measuring emissions as it calculates the fluctuations in population. Including the sequestration benefits of our natural and working lands in the emissions calculation is important for a number of reasons, but the first is that we are accounting for their emissions during management, we should also account for their sequestration benefits. This only makes sense as we have our forests and farm lands, wheat fields and grass lands that sequester carbon. We can't build on them and do to harmful environmental lawsuits and appeals, any modest thinning and wildfire mitigation within the public system is severely halted. This causes a serious problem in the ability to manage our forest resources to prevent catastrophic wildfires and sequester carbon in wood products.

We are a carbon sink state and by setting up the Oregon Carbon Credits Offset Program, we can go to carbon neutral, sell the carbon credits beyond carbon zero to other states that are carbon/GHG intensive states. We would be leader in a National Carbon Program, while generating resources to invest in continuing to lower carbon emissions in Oregon.

Colleagues, I respectfully request the adoption of the -2 amendment and thank you in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully,



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