

David Brock Smith**State Representative**

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**Committees**

Energy and Environment

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OREGON STATE LEGISLATURE
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House Committee on Health Care

Chair Salinas,

Thank you for putting together such a panel on Climate Change and the Impacts on Public Health. Of course, air quality issues are greater in the urban areas due to passenger vehicle emissions. The stop and go traffic release more emissions within the urban areas of Portland, while lower income families are banned from using wood for heat, many of them relying on wood as their only heat source. What's even more unfortunate, is that HB 4167 or SB 1530; the Governor Brown and her democrat legislator's Cap & Trade pay to pollute scheme does little to nothing to address these critical air quality issues. There is no lane expansion, no electric vehicle transition, just forever increases on fuel that is a regressive tax that will impact your low-income families and mine. That's how this cap & trade pay to pollute scheme works, by constantly increasing the costs associated with fuel and heat by carbon sources, to purposely make them unaffordable to use. Unfortunately, many of your constituents and mine, have no alternative.

I have discussed with you a piece of legislation that I have drafted; HB 4151, that will assist in reducing these passenger vehicle emissions in Portland, assist with the transition to electric vehicle purchase, add incentives of up to \$10k for someone within the Metro Area of Portland for an EV purchase that makes less than 120% of area median income and provide the resources needed for EV charging infrastructure and grid modernization. I personally asked you if you would like to sign onto my bill that will have a great impact on reducing these emissions in Portland that are impacting the health of your constituents and low income families, but I see you are still not interested and have not signed on to sponsor this bill.

To the conversation of Global Climate on Health, we have had several discussions on Oregon's emissions and legislation to impact those emissions on the global scale. The Oregon experts in Environment and Climate have testified in legislative Committee on the issues of Oregon's emissions and their impact to global climate and ultimately health. When DEQ Director Whitman was asked by me in committee on the impact of global climate if Oregon reduced their emissions to the point of Oregon have zero emissions, DEQ Director Whitman responded, "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 in committee on the impact of global climate if Oregon reduced their emissions to the point of Oregon have zero emissions, Dr. Mote responded the impact would be, "imperceptible."

Further, the current Cap & Trade pay to pollute schemes being pushed by Governor Brown and her democrat legislators will also have little to no impact on the transportation sector, which is the largest sector of emissions in Oregon. What it will impact is a continual rising cost of fuel, heat, food and services to Oregonians, with our lower income and rural residents being the hardest hit. It will also do little to nothing to help reduce transportation emissions, except make it more costly to drive.

In closing, the two leading Oregon experts on environment and climate have stated that if Oregon went beyond the cap and trade legislations goals and went to zero emissions in the state, the impact on global climate and ultimately the health of Oregonians would be “miniscule” and “imperceptible.”

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David Brock Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a stylized "S" at the end.

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