

TO: House Committee on Rules

Dear Committee members:

I am opposed to HB 4167. Passage of this bill will cause much damage to the economy of Oregon and to many families that will be impacted by its implementation. There are other solutions to the CO2 issues before us which would be much less damaging to society as a whole, such as better management of our forests to reduce the extreme releases of carbon into the atmosphere resulting from wildfires. Planting more trees in previous clearcut areas and burn sites would increase the capacity of the forests to absorb CO2, provide jobs, improve air quality, and cost much less.

I am environmentally conscious. We installed solar panels in 2016 on our south facing roof and installed solar swimming pool heaters decades ago. We installed energy efficient skylights eliminating the need for most electric lighting in our house, garage, and barn during daylight hours. In addition we upgraded to a ductless mini-split heat pump within the last 4 years. We were incentivized by TAX CREDITS to do those things. You will catch more flies with honey than with vinegar, as the saying goes. We were happy to make those changes and seriously reduced our electric consumption as a result. The reduction in our electric bill made it a win-win situation for all. That is the type of policy I would like to see, where you encourage people to make the changes that are good for the environment by incentivizing rather than punitively COERCING them to do what you want.

The way this bill goes about forcing change creates distrust, resistance, and attitudes of rebellion and revenge among the people you are representing. Is that what you want? I urge you to reconsider how you are going about mandating the changes you want to see occur, instead of creating the social upheaval and rebellion that will happen if this bill becomes law.

This bill has lost all credibility as something to be considered during the Short Session, if ever. It has been changed and amended over and over with inconsistencies between what is before you and other legislation, especially regarding which costs utilities can pass on to consumers. It is almost impossible to do side-by-side comparisons to figure out what the changes have been. I believe this has been done on purpose, in order to confuse and overwhelm the people. In addition, there is still no credible information regarding its true costs. Necessary Revenue and true Fiscal statements have not been provided. A bill of this magnitude should never be put up for consideration, even during the long session, without this basic information. You are being asked to pass judgment on a bill without knowing even the financial ramifications of it, let alone the social outcomes. The reaction of the people has been overwhelmingly negative, yet we are being shoved aside by elitist thought that we don't know what is best for us even when we know there are less impactful solutions to climate change. It is clear to me that this bill is more about completely changing our economy than anything having to do with carbon issues.

The presence of the emergency clause precluding a referendum is appalling. WE NEED TO VOTE ON SOMETHING OF THIS MAGNITUDE which will affect every citizen in this state and beyond, if you vote it into existence.

This bill is not the best solution for the people of Oregon. Please kill this bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jean M. Hart