

Members of the Joint Committees,

First, thank you for your service. Balancing the needs of the many communities you represent is difficult and I know you rely on many voices when decisions are complicated.

This comment is intended to urge you to carefully consider the effects the Cap and Invest bill will have on agriculture, as well as the business as a whole. Oregon's citizens rely on a healthy business economy for the jobs they need to feed their families. To that end, I encourage consideration of some key points:

***Oregon's Nursery Industry** is a traded sector, approaching \$1 Billion, bringing brand new dollars into the state.

***Our markets** are largely (75%) on the other side of this very large nation. Anything that increases shipping costs make our product less competitive to products grown much closer, who by the way also pay a much lower labor cost.

***Our company** raises 6 million trees for reforestation, streambank restoration and other uses in eight different locations. The cost of reforestation and restoration will inevitably increase as our labor and fuel costs rise. The most likely outcome of high costs to our customers is decreasing the numbers of plants used. Not a good outcome for the environment, our company or our employees. A goal defeating move for carbon sequestration.

***Our company** is a pilot member of the Climate Friendly Nursery Project and we won a Stewardship award for our work.

***The nursery industry** supported the transportation package last year, seeing the wisdom of supporting infrastructure. We supported the evolution of Sick Pay, seeing wisdom if supporting employees. But, all costs impact our pricing structure.

***Some impacts** can be mitigated to some nurseries by including the ODOT highway plan requirement. But make no mistake, the positive impact is limited to a few companies. The industry as a whole will see the negative impact of additional costs.

***Some of the deepest damage** could easily be to the greenhouse growers who will not sell material for highway plantings. Greenhouses commonly use natural gas for heating and the penalty imposed by much higher pricing is expected to be devastating to them.

It is not too late to mitigate the damage of unintended consequences to your important plant producing industry. Our leadership is eager to help you understand what can be done before it's too late.

Thank you for your time.

Kathy LeCompte
Brooks Tree Farm, Inc
9785 Portland Road NE
Salem, OR 97305
503.393.6300 Phone
503.393.0827 Fax