

I would like to give my opinion and suggestions on the Cap and Invest Bill that will pass in Salem on a totally partisan vote. We should do everything that we can to clean up and preserve our planet. With that said, we must be careful of the "Super Majority" and work with the minority voices to represent all Oregonians and pass a bill that the state can manage.

In the last few decades much has been done to clean our environment and if we could recognize hydro power as a clean energy, our state would be the best in the nation. This bill will increase the cost of living for every resident. Australia's ruling party enacted a similar bill which caused their removal in the next election and the bill was canceled. It seemed that the cost enacted the wrath of the voters and stretched their ability to pay. In 2017 the legislature passed the transportation bill that will impose costs on every citizen and will do a lot for our environment. Now just two years later we are ready to double down on it.

The track record of Oregon for managing auctions and tax credits shows real problems that will occur as the bill is structured. Credits issued previously such as BETC cost the state a fortune, convictions for fraud and lack of oversight are still being discovered. We are not capable to create a program of this magnitude and manage the massive revenue that it will produce and ultimately be paid from all Oregon residents.

Here are my suggestions; Reduce the number of companies for the initial implementation to the top 25 without excluding those that have better lobbyists but do exclude all public utilities that provide necessary services. Do not do an auction of the credits but put a reasonable tonnage fee that will go directly into a fund. The whole idea of the auction and credits will become a huge profit center that will raise the costs and create opportunities for a few investors and do little to clean our air. Take the money and spend 50% on forest restoration and management that will reduce the severity and risk of the smoke that threatens our health and economy of our state. Our forests are the best source and asset for storing carbon while creating jobs. Spend the remaining funds; 25% as grants to those 25 companies to help them reduce emissions and the remaining 25% to reduce utility bills to low income families through solar and home improvements. This may seem too simple but it is manageable, would provide real benefits and would be a good stepping stone for a very complex project.

Government will only be successful when those elected listen to all and that includes including the minority party that represents a lot of Oregonians.

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