



HARNEY COUNTY COURT

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To: Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction

Co-chairs Dembrow and Power and Members of the Committee,

I write in opposition to HB 2020. I Acknowledge the climate is changing and understand some in the state feel there is a need to be proactive. This bill will not make any significant change to global CO2 emissions. So, the need to be proactive must reside in a social obligation that some feel is necessary. This social obligation if allowed to move forward as written is **Horribly Discriminatory** to my County and a large portion of the State. There are many issues that need to be addressed before there is any possibility of the bill being fair or just, let me emphasize this bill as written in **not Just or fair**. I will briefly hit on five of the main issues.

First, due to the geographical location of our County, our citizens will bear the brunt of the added fuel tax. I request that the bill include language for a rebate for this tax to counties below 50,000 in population.

Second, many of our community members will not be able to afford an increase in their heating bills, rebate program for our constituents that are on a fixed budget needs to be mandatory. The bill purposes insulation programs, there are and have been many insulation programs in our County, we do not need more. Without a rebate program some of our fixed income community will need to decide when to heat their homes.

Third, the exemptions that were drafted in version 4 of this bill back in December must be added back. There are no protections for Ag and Forestry in this bill, Ag is our biggest economic driver and must be protected.

Fourth, agriculture fuels must not be under the carbon cap. Off-road fuel which is dyed diesel must be exempt. There needs to be a rebate for farmers and ranchers that have a farm vehicle registration under ORS 805.300 to 805.410. The use of dyed diesel is not allowed in these vehicles as they can be used on public highways. In order to truly exempt farms and ranches from a cap and trade system, the on-road diesel used in these farm vehicles must be exempt or a rebate program implemented.

Fifth, we must **do no harm to HB 2017** from the 2017 legislative session. As written HB 2020 bill does not honor all the work that went into HB 2017. For example, all gas tax revenue must go back to maintaining out transportation system with the 30 /20/ 50 split. This does not occur in HB 2020 as written.

I appreciate your time in reading this. I had planned on driving to Baker City today to testify in my house district, but due to the weather I will not be making that 6-hour roundtrip. Thank you all for your service to our great State of Oregon. The Job you do is not easy or glamorous and I appreciated your commitment and sacrifice. Thank you

Mark Owens

Harney County Commissioner