

Members of the Committee,

Whether by voice or ink today I am here to plead, not ask, but plead for you to not to proceed with House Bill 2020. My words aren't alone in this, they are among the clamor of the 115 employees of Ash Grove Cement, located in Durkee, OR in Baker County. My voice is my own, but it is in unison with those 115 souls & more, their families, their friends, our customers, our vendors, and the surrounding communities.

This bill will shut Ash Grove Cement, Durkee down. You claim it will help people and make things better, but you're woefully misinformed &/or uninformed. You think this bill will help? The short term & long term ramifications of this bill will damage our locale immediately and in turn the state of Oregon.

I'm 26 years old, one of those "unmotivated & free-loading" millennials about which everyone complains. I have thousands of dollars in student loans. But you know something? I have a job I love, I'm striving to learn more every day and better myself. Those loans I mentioned... I am well on my way and ahead toward paying them back. Ash Grove Cement offered me a job during my final months of college, and nearly 4 years later I mark it as the best decision of my life. I have a solid job, health benefits, a 401k, I've even bought a house. This was all possible because of Ash Grove. They gave me the opportunity to get "out there" in life.

Baker City is my home now. I spent the first 18 years of my life in the same house in the same city in Colorado, but I now consider that where I grew up, I think of it as a place to visit & reminisce, but it is no longer home. I chose Oregon as my home, for many reasons. I could have chosen Idaho and commuted, but I chose Oregon. If you continue with this bill, that will likely change. I, and many others, will possibly have to relocate, taking our families and our support for the communities with us. You shouldn't have to ask why, but if you do you're demonstrating the disconnect between you and the people you represent. You do NOT understand the ramifications your actions will have on us.

Ash Grove readily complies with all environmental constraints & emission limitations; this is done because these limits & constraints are OBTAINABLE. We continually seek to exceed environmental expectations. This bill is not a sophisticated plan to address any carbon load reduction....it is simply a tax with dire consequences to our local and state economies.

The idea of addressing carbon load reduction is certainly a worthwhile one, but this bill does not work toward a positive solution for the future. Instead it simply imposes yet another ambiguous tax. The result? Oregon will lose vital resources. It is said that these credits will be used to "relieve the carbon load," but you don't explain how. The discussion of actionable alternatives has been nonexistent, so you are proposing exorbitant taxes, under the guise of "credits" to fund an ambiguous & ill-conceived idea formulated by bureaucrats who aren't directly impacted by the results of said action. The negative results of this bill are far more enduring than your terms in office.

This bill doesn't just affect Ash Grove but I doubt you care. You've rushed to get something done, and rushed a "solution." Just because you can't or won't do your jobs, my colleagues and I shouldn't be prevented from doing ours. I chose Ash Grove and Eastern Oregon for my lifelong home. While that may seem like a foreign concept to you, my decision should not be affected by bureaucratic posturing. Please do not proceed with this impractical idea.

Thank you for your time,

Mark Clagett
2/24/2019