

Dan & Cynthia Warnock
59297 Upper Imnaha Road
Imnaha, OR 97842

Hello,

My wife and I run mother cows in the upper Imnaha area. We live 23 miles from Imnaha and 54 from Joseph, Oregon, so our operation is very dependent on fuel. In the summer we raise hay for our livestock as well as purchase some. Our tractors are used for haying in the summer and for feeding in the winter. If HB 2020 is passed, it could have significant adverse impacts on farmers, ranchers and rural people in general, such as us.

Fuel is already one of our largest expenses. We already try to minimize that cost by being efficient with the use of the equipment and our vehicles. If fuel costs go up because of the impacts of HB 2020, we will have to make some big changes in our operation. My wife may have to quit her job in town to reduce the use of fuel. We may have to look at not haying some fields. On top of that though the cost of the hay we purchase will also increase because that producer will need to charge more for his product to balance out the increase in his fuel cost. So not only does our fuel bill increase, but so will our feed costs.

We have three sons, two that are trying to get started in the cow/calf business and one who is working in the logging industry. It is already hard for them to keep their heads above water with the cost of rent, food and insurance. Putting an additional expense on them will make it real hard for them to continue to work in this area and in the agricultural field.

If fuel costs increase, local farmers/ranchers will be decreasing their spending in other areas. This will lead to a decrease in spending in the small local communities. They in turn will have a hard time making it with a decrease in sales. To compensate for this, their prices will increase to compensate diminishing sales. It then becomes a vicious circle and at some point there won't be the amount of agriculture in rural communities or the small "ma and pa businesses" that have been around for years.

I wonder if people in urban areas and cities really know what it would be like if there was no agriculture. They will also feel the effects of SB 2020 when the fuel costs increase as well as the food costs. This bill will not benefit agriculture in anyway. I ask you to vote "NO" on HB 2020 as it is currently drafted. There needs to be modifications to the bill so that it does not put such a burden on agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Warnock", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan Warnock