

Wallowa County Stockgrowers
668 NE 1st Street
Enterprise, OR 97828

2/26/19

Dear Legislators,

The Wallowa County Stockgrowers are very concerned about HB 2020 and how it will affect ranchers, farmers and timber contractors. To force Oregonians to pay a new tax on the energy they use will directly impact businesses that rely on various fuels such as gas, diesel and propane. Agricultural businesses use all of these fuels in their operations and this House Bill will have a negative impact on them.

Cap and trade puts our farmers, ranchers and foresters across the state at extreme risk for a program that will do virtually nothing to improve our environment on a global scale.

Agricultural producers are paid for work based on fluctuations in regional and international markets. The ability to absorb the significant increase in fuel costs folks would be forced to pay under cap and trade is extremely limited in an industry that already survives on thin margins. If this program becomes law, those margins will become even thinner or disappear altogether.

This is also a hit on small rural communities who depend on the local ag and timber industry to keep their businesses open. When the local people can't support the home-town businesses, it creates higher costs and eventually shutdowns. We have seen this in our small towns in Wallowa County.

We encourage legislators to not approve this bill as written. It needs to be modified so there is not another financial burden put on ranchers, farmers and foresters. Please consider all of this when you vote on HB 2020.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Warnock
President