

My name is Keith Johnston. Since 1960 I have worked on a small farm or have been operating a small farm located in the middle of the Willamette valley. I am continuing to do so to this day.

In general I can understand the lofty goals of HB2020. I am however very concerned about how this bill will effect small business as it is currently written for the following three reasons:

1. As farmers , we have played a key role in sequestering carbon from the atmosphere for thousands of years before it became the latest popular idea. With the help of solar energy , the plants we establish and nurture, absorb carbon from the atmosphere , produce food and fiber, and then release oxygen back into the atmosphere.

Example. The biomass of one acre of fescue is 33,000 pounds. 40% of that mass is 13,000 pounds of carbon absorbed straight from the atmosphere. One atom of oxygen is released into the atmosphere for each atom of carbon absorbed from the atmosphere.

2. HB2020 will increase the cost of several inputs required for the production of crops. Virtually all of the vendors I do business with can and do routinely pass their increased costs along to me. I on the other hand do not have a mechanism for passing along increased costs.

Example. I have had to pay fuel surcharges on top of the normal hauling fees for hauling product to market. I have no way to add fuel surcharges to my farm products

3. Currently available commercial batteries have about 1/50th the energy density of diesel fuel. The tractor I use on my farm uses about 500 pounds of fuel in 14 hours. To achieve that amount of power from a battery, it would have to weigh 25,000 pounds. So in order to replace carbon fuels with electric power, there will have to be several quantum leaps in battery technology. We will also need to see quantum leaps in storage capacity for electricity generated by solar cells and wind generators. As you can see in this regard we currently have very limited possibilities for practical alternatives. Our city cousins have several options. Light rail, buses, electric cars and even bicycles are practical options.

In conclusion, I respectfully ask you to amend this bill to put in protocols for offsets so that they are transparent, clear and straightforward. As the bill currently stands, I do not believe I would have access to offsets for the carbon sequestration on my farm (point 1 above) and the increased cost of production.(point 2 above). OSU has a number of individuals who would be able to provide great input concerning these issues. I also request that the funds generated by this bill not be placed in the general fund, but be held separate to actually be plowed back into research and development of practical useful innovations to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. I would love to have an electric tractor and combine. I am reasonably sure one person on this committee would like to have electric straw bailers.

If I remember correctly ORS 183.540 requires you to take in to account the implications bills such as this have to small businesses in the state.

Sincerely

Keith Johnston

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