

My name is Tod Hunt from Medford. Thank you Co chairs Dembrow and Power for coming here today.

1. I oppose this punitive bill as it is nothing more than an agenda masquerading as a noble cause. Driven by the fear of a manufactured crisis, this bill will only serve to benefit the progressive tax and spend agenda of state government and those favored “green” businesses who will receive exemptions to the carbon “allowances” while unfairly and disproportionately burdening the disadvantaged communities of Oregon.
2. The bill creates yet another bureaucratic agency, with the director appointed by the Governor, who will operate virtually without oversight or accountability to the people. Our representative government will essentially be picking the winners and losers in our state’s economy. The bill will take from and harm the many defenseless citizen stakeholders and give to the few government friendly climate change advocates, while financially benefitting itself to the tune of millions of dollars. In the government’s capacity as a fiduciary to fairly represent all of its citizens, it would appear they have a significant conflict of interest.
3. There is no net benefit to this bill. It will cost each family more for gas, utilities and food but it won’t make a noticeable difference in global climate change. Our contribution to “greenhouse gases” in Oregon amounts to just one tenth of one percent of the total global output. Imagine, however, the impact we would have in reducing our carbon footprint in Oregon if all we did was expeditiously extinguish summer fires!
4. The financial burdens imposed upon Oregon businesses will in many cases be passed along to the consumer in higher costs for goods and services. Businesses that cannot pass these costs forward will either reduce their workforce, leave the state for more equitable treatment or go out of business altogether. Entrepreneurs who might have otherwise given due consideration to setting up a business in our state will either be discouraged or outright repelled by the disincentive erected by this wall. Regardless of the outcome, the adverse intrusion of this bill into the lives of ordinary citizens and vital job-creating and state income tax producing businesses will actually *reduce* state government revenues, NOT increase them! By the way, how and where will the carbon tax revenue be spent? No one knows. I guess we will have to pass the bill to see what’s in it.