

Dear Legislators,

I was present at the HB2020 meeting last Saturday and wish to follow up on my verbal presentation with a written copy of what I more or less said.

Firstly I want to remark that I am a slightly older person and clearly remember the warnings from our scientists in the 1970's. See the below as an example.

Daily *Redlands* Facts

REDLANDS, CALIFORNIA, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1970

Dr. Ehrlich, outspoken ecologist, to speak

"Giving aspirins to cancer victims" is what Dr. Paul R. Ehrlich thinks of current proposals for pollution control. No real action has been taken to save the environment, he maintains.

And it does need saving. Ehrlich predicts that:

The oceans will be as dead as Lake Erie in less than a decade.

The DDT in our fatty tissues has reached levels high enough to cause brain damage and cirrhosis of the liver.

America will be subject to water rationing by 1974 and food rationing by 1980.

University of California Extension, Riverside and World Affairs Council of Inland Southern California will present the outspoken author of "The Population Bomb" and the hero of the ecology movement tomorrow at 8 p.m. He will speak in the gymnasium on the UCR campus.



DR. PAUL EHRLICH

At the time the reputation of scientists was pretty unalloyed. I believed them and made important life style decisions that I now regret. We were going to starve, freeze to death (global cooling, then burning i.e. global warming, and now... climate change), and be without any energy...long before the millennium.

I understand the sense of fear, desperation, and even panic that people are currently experiencing as they contemplate the prognostications of various scientists and groups. My main advice to them all is to take a deep breath and relax a little. We've been here before and decades later, are still alive and well. Moreover, some of the decisions we've made in the past as both individuals and as a government were not well thought out and have come to be shown as having many unintended negative consequences. Making decisions based on panic is rarely wise.

Policies that we adopt in our current situation should be well thought out and reflect both efficiency and efficaciousness. In colloquial parlance, we would say, they should have maximum bang for the buck.

HB2020 does not, as far as I can tell have any bang... that is, it will not result in any significant impact on global climate change. We hear this from many experts in the field, both those who are ardent global climate change advocates, and those who aren't. As a consequence we have to look to the buck, that is, what is the cost of implementing a policy that in reality will have negligible effect? If the cost were also minimal, then it would be a worthy policy. I fear however, that the cost is far from minimal.

Energy is the life blood of civilization. It is multilayered and complexly interconnected to all aspects of our economy, prosperity, progress and indeed, all phases of our current and future lives. Negatively affecting the cost and availability of energy has a hugely detrimental effect on the most vulnerable amongst us, those who are poor or on limited income. Many businesses also are vulnerable to these types of regulations which threaten their very existence.

Southern Oregon is already an environmentally and economically disadvantaged area. The fire and smoke created by our forest maintenance policies already have an enormously detrimental effect on this areas economy and on the health of its citizens. Even if it is believed that forest fires are being exacerbated by global warming, that would simply mean that our forest

management policies must be even more aggressive to account for the additional proclivity to fires. We cannot add further disadvantage to this area, it will have completely unforeseeable negative consequences.

I urge you to block the passage of HB2020. It is a policy with little to recommend it. The monies it collects from the citizens has little oversight and provides opportunity for a repeat of the errors that occurred when the last administration provided monies to green companies. I am thinking specifically of Solyndra... a lesson in how wrong the policies contemplated in HB2020 can be.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Peter St.Onge

Medford, OR