

TO: Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction

RE: HB2020 Climate Action Program

Public Hearing March 2, 2019, COCC Cascade Hall, at Bend Oregon

THIS LEGISLATION DECLATES AN EMERGENCY. NO SPONSOR IS NAMED ON THE LEGISLATION.

HB2020 issues "no statement" regarding fiscal impact and "no statement" regarding revenue impact. HB2020 has vague, unaccountable, and ambiguous language regarding how tax revenue will be spent, referring to it as "other requirements" for Climate Action Program.

Mandating legislation (CAP) to change the climate is both unscientific and political. Levels of CO2 and other greenhouse gasses do not control climate and cannot cause global catastrophe. Oregonians will be unfairly taxed for emitting one twentieth of one percent of carbon emissions.

Proponents of this massive tax and CAP legislation know its impact on global climate will be miniscule. Dr. Philip Mote, director of Oregon Climate Services, states that the impact on global climate will be "imperceptible," even if Oregon were to reduce emissions to zero. A global warming scare has evolved into a moral and ethical narrative. Suggesting that CAP will control climate, prevent floods, snow or rain fall, winds, draught, or control Mother Nature is unscientific and unethical. Oregon CAN improve its air quality by managing forests and controlling fires, but has failed to do so.

Enactment of CAP legislation will do incalculable damage by negatively and financially impacting every Oregon resident. Impact on business and agriculture is limitless. Tourism will be adversely impacted.

Not everyone will be directly affected by a 15 cent a gallon tax at the fuel pump, but this tax will raise the cost of all services at the consumer level. Cost of living will be increased for all residents, especially those in rural areas and those in minimum wage brackets.

Oregon legislature just passed a rent control law. Yet, HB2020 mandates a tax on hydro carbons that will negatively impact renters, and raise living costs. It issues "no statement" regarding fiscal impact.

Oregon is struggling to make housing cheaper, and to provide for the homeless and seniors living on limited income. Yet, HB2020 is proposing a carbon tax that will severely impact the most vulnerable.

Oregon's PERS, public retirement, is nearly bankrupt and draining state and local budgets.

HB2020 is not about the environment. It's not about helping Oregonians. It's about raising revenue. Oregonians cannot afford this tax.



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