

To the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for taking the time and commitment to produce the Carbon Road Show. It really engaged Oregonians and caused us to educate ourselves on the prospect of cap and trade in Oregon. After reading the bill and multiple sources of education and critique, I truly feel that Cap and Trade is not a fit for Oregon.

Cap and Trade programs are not proven to work in actually reducing carbon emissions. The EU has been disappointed, the Australians abandoned their program and the California cap and trade controversial. Cap and trade creates an artificial trading market where the state, polluters and vested industries manipulate the pricing and supply of the carbon allowances. Unfortunately, the system will always be weakened by the reality of low cost carbon and how much influence the targeted industries have in suppressing the price of the allowances.

That Oregon is going to take a poor performing approach like cap and trade, add a few more layers, and make this theoretically simplistic program work is deceptive. Cap and trade does produce a program where costs are intentionally opaque, implementation corrupted by lobbies, and benefits are questionable. When the Oregon State University climate scientist can verify that the before and after cap and trade affect on global carbon emission is virtually zero, why would Oregon engage?

Carbon is a complex issue, but this bill makes it about one thing – taxing fossil fuel use. When the state should be emphasizing carbon sequestration in farming practices, this bill instead raises the cost of farming so farmers cannot consider making the transition to sustainable soil management practices. The program is so complex and opaque that it creates apathy in the general population, when that same population could be empowered to change some simple habits and dependencies to reduce their carbon waste.

I encourage lawmakers to see the California Cap and Trade program as a cautionary tale and to also understand that global emissions cannot be managed by pulling money out of the wallets of every Oregonian. Oregon already has the third lowest carbon emissions in the U.S. If we want to do more, we need innovative programs, not bureaucratic programs that impossible to understand let alone measure and hold accountable.

Sincerely,

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