

Testimony

Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction

March 1, 2019

Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction,

I am writing today in opposition to HB 2020 as drafted.

I am Brian Glaser, a fourth-generation natural resource manager growing grass seed, small grains, and several other specialty seed crops in central Linn county. I have had an opportunity throughout my life and career to observe nature, learning much about the interrelationship of nature, life, and soil. I have seen nature cycle through periods of above average temperatures and rainfall to periods of below average temperatures and rainfall. Nature cycles through these periods to balance and keep in balance the needs of the whole system.

I strive to manage the natural resources under my care as carefully, efficiently, and effectively as I could with the information, research, and knowledge available. Any change to my operation must look carefully at the possible outcome and long-term effects. My goal, as my prior generations, is to leave the resources we manage in a better state and condition. Allowing my kids, the fifth generation of this operation, the best opportunity to be successful in managing the family farm. As I research new ideas and practices on our operation, intensive care, data collecting, and analysis need to be made over time to make sure we are reaching a measurable desired outcome. This kind of change takes time, effort, energy, and money. I am investing into equipment, technology, and testing to further these improvements. Often these changes are slow and minute, but with time I have seen much improvement in the health and condition of the soils I opportunity to manage.

I believe HB 2020 as drafted, will disincentivize operations as mine by adding much cost that we cannot pass on in the market place. Most of Oregon's crops are sold outside of this state, were these costs and regulation are not in play. Much of the pricing we receive is set by the global market place, putting our businesses at great competitive disadvantage if HB 2020 is passed. Farms run on very thin margins. As these margins are reduced or eliminated, managers will have less appetite for spending resources they do not have to test new ideas and technologies, starting new practices, and/or investing into building the health of the soils managed and improving the surrounding environment. Some of these practices I and others in my area work on include; streambank protection activities, building and maintaining riparian areas, establishing and protecting wildlife areas, and water quality improvement practices.

For operations like mine to operate, we rely on heavy equipment to conduct the farming operations necessary to plant, grow, harvest, transport the crops grow to market. A variety of vehicles are used in the normal day to day activities, some of which are very specialized for specific jobs. Fuel is a major cost. If HB 2020 passes, it is expected to increase fuel prices with a 16 cent tax, with potential increases each year thereafter. This would add thousands of dollars to my operating expenses adding financial stresses to the overall operation.

I believe in doing what I can to reduce our carbon footprint. That is why I continue to look for efficiencies in all operations that would continue to reduce the impact I have on the environment. As equipment is considered for replacement, I look for fuel-efficient equipment and ways to reduce the

gallons of fuel used for that operation. I investigate new ideas and systems to reduce passes and inputs into the farming operation, reducing fuel use, thereby reducing the carbon released into the atmosphere.

I see HB 2020 is an increase of cost to all Oregonians. The cost of all my inputs will rise along with everything people purchase. All my inputs must travel by rail and/or truck to my operation and all of my production is then in turn trucked out of this state to markets around the world. The companies supplying my inputs will raise their prices to me to cover the increased cost mandated by the passage of HB 2020.

If HB 2020 passes, I am also concerned about the raising cost to the state of Oregon. I believe the budget will also be greatly impacted. The Governor's proposed budget has huge increases with the need for more state income. The cost alone to the state budget may be too great for the state economy to support. This will drive inflation up putting the brakes to the economy we are currently enjoying in Oregon. I believe the passage of HB 2020 will result in increased financial stresses being placed on all businesses.

I also oppose HB 2020 because of there or no clear measurables. As I mentioned before, I research and test out new ideas and products to verify the claimed and desired results. I analyze the results looking to see if the investment is worth the tested outcome. It is great to have a goal and desire to reduce our carbon footprint, it's the right thing to do. However, we need to understand that as a state, if we invest "x", then "y" is the predictable and tested measurable outcome. HB 2020 as I see it has no method of measuring progress. Oregon is a very small contributor of Carbon with relation to the world. What is Oregon willing to spend on such a lofty project of reducing carbon in a measurable significance to the world's carbon footprint?

I am opposed to HB2020 as drafted and would like to encourage the committee to take in consideration all the testimony from rural Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Glaser, Linn County