



March 5, 2019

The Hon. Cliff Bentz
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St., NE S-403
Salem, OR 97301

VIA FIRST CLASS US MAIL and E-Mail sen.cliffbentz@oregonlegislature.gov

Senator Bentz:

Tree Top Ranches, LP is a cattle ranching and farming operation located in southeastern Oregon. TTR employs more than a dozen hardworking Oregon families and supports numerous related businesses in this area.

We are writing to you to express our concern that HB 2020, *the so-called “Cap & Trade” bill unfairly, unnecessarily and disproportionately affects Oregon’s rural and agricultural communities.*

Agricultural areas provide the food, open space and wildlife habitat that benefit Oregon as a whole. Reasonable and available technologies & equipment to replace fossil-fuel powered agricultural equipment do not exist. This forces agriculture to unfairly compete with other users for the diminishing and increasingly expensive fuels.

Unlike urban areas, rural communities are by their nature more ‘spread out’—requiring their residents to travel greater distances for goods and services. Rural areas are not served by mass transit and they push the limits of electric transportation technologies.

In addition to providing food production, open space and wildlife habitat, rural areas will be further impacted by wind farms, solar installations, and mitigation projects that benefit and offset urban centers.

It is undeniable that fuel costs will rise dramatically. These costs will be passed on to consumers—or businesses will fail. These increased costs will make interstate competition impractical. People and businesses will move. And when people begin emigrating from Oregon an already difficult State fiscal situation will become far worse.

We can understand Oregon’s desire to reduce climate change. But this can be done without greater detriment to its lands and vital agricultural sectors. We urge you and your fellow legislators to make reasonable accommodations for Oregon’s crucially productive rural sector. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

on behalf of Tree Top Ranches, LP
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