



TUALATIN

CHAMBER of COMMERCE

March 7, 2019

Dear Co-Chair Dembrow, Co-Chair Power and members of the committee,

The Tualatin Chamber of Commerce represents 430 businesses that employ over 15,000 of the City's workforce. Small businesses, representing 75% of our base, are the backbone of our community. They provide local jobs and give of their time, talents and treasures to our community.

I am writing today to express my concerns about the impacts of HB 2020 on our local community. As drafted, HB 2020 penalizes local companies and families that utilized Natural Gas. Companies in Oregon would end up paying higher energy and operating costs, which would result in fewer living-wage jobs. This is especially concerning in rural areas.

"Any Cap and Trade program should provide consistent treatment of all utility sector emissions – and, consequently, all utility customers. Emissions are emissions, whether they come from coal, oil or natural gas. A Cap and Trade program should be administered so that natural gas customers are not asked to pay more than their fair share. As currently envisioned, HB 2020 would violate that fundamental principle. Providing substantial customer allowances to electric customers but not to natural gas customers would result in some Oregonians paying for their emissions, while others would pay nothing and emit just as much."

If Oregon passes HB 2020, it will increase the cost of living and working in Oregon. All residents will bear the cost of fuel increases and increased natural gas rates. The price of fuel would increase by at least 16 cents per gallon and would drive Oregon to have the third-highest gas prices in the country. Natural gas prices would also increase by double digits in the first year.

We hope you will support local families and businesses in this state and either oppose or revise HB 2020 to treat all utilities and their customers consistently. Oregonians can't afford to bear the burden of this poorly crafted legislation. Natural Gas is an important part of our fuel network and the cost impact of the current proposal would be severe. Please support Climate Legislation that would address the concerns of all utilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda Moholt". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Linda Moholt, CEO, IOM
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