



# Eastern Oregon Counties Association

1001 Fourth Street, La Grande OR

(541) 963-1014

**Date:** April 8, 2019

**To:** Oregon Representatives Lynn Findley, Greg Barreto, Mike McLane  
Oregon Senators Bill Hansell, Cliff Bentz, Dennis Linthicum  
House Committee on Health Care

**From:** Eastern Oregon Counties Association

**Subject:** Opposition to proposed HB2020- Cap and Trade

Oregon's House Bill 2020, Cap and Trade, is going to affect the climate alright – the economic climate of every man, woman, and child in Oregon. This bill will also affect every square foot of our land, intended to par away only a miniscule percent of greenhouse gases. Oregon in #38 of our 50 states for carbon emissions.

The legislation will cause decimating harm to everyone in the State, especially rural Oregon, because we have less opportunities than larger areas for business to replace those companies that can, and will, leave Oregon taking with them jobs and revenue so vital to our struggling economics. In rural counties a hundred jobs is the equivalent of 1000 jobs in the I-5 corridor or the Portland area. We need every job and every worker we can find.

Our vital industries in Eastern Oregon depend on the trucking industry for shipping our products out for sale to other markets or to bring in goods to our citizens for our needs. All this will put our producers and our citizens at a great disadvantage and may lose markets due to our higher prices.

HB2020 focuses on reduction of fossil fuel use (i.e. clean energy), but does not take into account the other factors that naturally lead to a reduction in carbon (carbon stores) such as our forests. Restoring the health of our forests and reducing wildfire recurrence should be the primary consideration over simply reducing fossil fuel consumption.

Losing jobs and raising all our costs of living for our citizens at the same time, is beyond realistic. It is cruel and unfair. No amount of subsidies or give-away programs will ever equal what this bill takes away from our citizens for the next 30 years of our lives.

Something so divisive should never be left up to such a few number of people, but should only be up to vote of the people of the State. We the people should be free to choose what is best for our families and ourselves, we need jobs for our communities to survive and a cost of living that we can afford.



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The climate cycle when it changes takes hundreds of years to change and as throughout our history we have adapted with it. Why is it an emergency now to pass this bill? It's not. Why must everything be changed so drastically all at once and not gradually as the climate does? There is no legitimate reason to pass this bill as an emergency and it should not be.

We, the Eastern Oregon Counties Association, request that you do not pass this bill and instead work with our county governments to find real solutions to perceived problems. This is something so large and life changing that we all should have a large part in directing the process and the outcomes.

## NO vote on this bill.

Sincerely,

Sam Palmer, Grant County

Jim Hamsher, Grant County

Bill Harvey, Baker County

Patty Dorroh, Harney County

Pete Runnels, Harney County

Mark Owens, Harney County

Donna Beverage, Union County

Bruce Nichols, Baker County

Susan Roberts, Wallowa County

Jerry Brummer, Crook County

Todd Nash, Wallowa County

Dan P. Joyce, Malheur County

Larry Wilson, Malheur County

Paul Anderes, Union County

R. Matthew Scarfo, Union County

Don Hodge, Malheur County

Scott Myers, Grant County