

I am writing to share my opposition to House Bill 2020. I am a farmer in Malheur County where I have 2 1/2 miles of farms along the Snake River north and south of Nyssa which lay along the Oregon Idaho border. This is my 47th year of farming. I have a 30 year old son that is taking over for me when I retire. Our family has been farming here since 1946. My son asked me, "When Grandpa came why didn't he just stop in Idaho. It would have made things a lot easier for us."

I use well over 70,000 gallons of gasoline, diesel and propane on my farming operation every year. At the \$.15 that you are going to start out with that will be an increase for me of \$10,500. If it goes up to \$.25 in 2025 it will \$17,500. You have already put \$.05 for paying for the low carbon fuel standard. This is just one more added burden to the agricultural economy that has been in a downturn for the last several years. Commodity prices in 2019 are at record lows and all our expenses continue to skyrocket.

We already have an unfair disadvantage with Idaho with our minimum wage, land use laws, and taxes of every kind. This is just one more tax that you are burdening us with making it nearly impossible to compete with Idaho farmers.

I would like you to understand that our agricultural businesses are tied to Idaho, especially the onion industry. You are making it so that we will no longer be able to compete with them. You are going to see gas stations in the Nyssa, Vale and Ontario area completely shut down and people will get their fuel in Idaho.

As you can see in Malheur County we are in a constant battle with our state leadership to keep our county businesses operating and profitable when we have to deal so closely with Idaho which is a state that is friendly to both agriculture and business. The more people that we lose to Idaho, the greater the tax burden for those who remain.

You can shove everything down our throat because we can't stop the majority on your side of the state. I feel Senator Bentz and Representative Findley are fighting a losing battle on our behalf. Please work with them in finding a solution for our county to help alleviate this additional pressure. We are already the poorest county in the State of Oregon. The migration from our county to Idaho is real because of all the things I have mentioned in this email.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paul K. Skeen