



Joint Committee on Carbon Reductions

[jccr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:jccr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

Re: HB 2020 Testimony

Dear Members of the Committee,

**Bill Harvey**  
Commission Chair  
[bharvey@bakercounty.org](mailto:bharvey@bakercounty.org)

We live in two different worlds; urbanized western Oregon and rural eastern Oregon. We are different in so many ways – western consumers v. eastern producers, western concrete highways v. eastern open spaces, western mass transit v. eastern long travel distances, large corporate businesses v. small ‘mom and pop’ entrepreneurs, but most importantly we differ politically. In eastern Oregon, our values encompass personal responsibility, which embraces small government and voting on decisions, traits that western Oregon and the State’s leadership seems to have forgotten.

HB 2020 will impact everyone – there are no exceptions. Producers, such as ranchers, farmers, timber workers, and housing contractors, have no “green fuel” alternatives. There are no electric tractors and no “alternative fuel” trucks to transport items in or goods out. There are no alternatives that allow for reduction in fuel consumption or lessen the amount of miles traveled to get eastern produced commodities to the consumers on the other side of the State. Rural and urban consumers will be hit with increased in costs of everything on their grocery store shelves, the electricity and natural gas to light, heat or cool their homes. Urban consumers will still be subject to CO2 emitting traffic because not everyone can afford, or wants, an electric powered vehicle – there simply is not the technology available even at the urban scale. Trucks and trains will still require diesel to transport goods. The economic impacts of HB 2020 reach across the State and will decimate large corporations as well as small family businesses. All of this economic devastation will be caused by a feel-good bill which will provide “miniscule” benefits according to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Director Richard Whitman.

Oregon has always been known for a State that prides itself on the protection of land and the right to farm. This bill undermines and devalues the very history of what made the State a leader in conservation. Our healthy forests provide a large carbon sink that withdraws 50% of the CO2 that is put into the atmosphere. Unfortunately, the conditions of the forests have deteriorated to a point that raging wildfires decimate hundreds of thousands of acres in a year, releasing CO2 at an alarming rate. Simply, easily, cheaply, and most importantly, this wildfire cycle could be stopped by the restoration of healthy forests. No restricting laws based on ‘consensual’ science will do more.

Unintended, but very real consequences will cause businesses to relocate into states that do not have the reduced carbon fuel that Oregon has. The carbon impact of this exodus will negate any intended gains, and may actually cause an increase in carbon production. Oregon is not in an atmospheric jar – we share the air of the world. This makes HB 2020 even more of a punishment of Oregonians.

Remove the emergency clause. The Oregon Constitution gives citizens the right to challenge legislation through referendum. The inclusion of this indefensible clause illustrates that the supporters of the bill do not want those in opposition to have a chance to refer the bill to the voters. This bill effects everyone and everyone should have a say.

Please, no cut-outs for 'special' businesses or classes of people. This bill already reads like the federal tax manual and, in truth, a statewide bill should affect everyone. Pandering to low income people by giving them \$100 per year 'gas allowance' is an insult to those of us who will bear the brunt of this legislation through our businesses, farms, and ranches. If this bill were, in fact, intended to reduce carbon, it would be one-size-fits-all, no exceptions, everyone treated equally bill. The only solution is to reject HB 2020 and all of the economic devastation it will create.

Baker County submits this letter to once again oppose HB 2020. The County fully intends to continue to oppose this bill at every chance until our voices are heard. This legislation will not only devastate eastern Oregon's economy, but that of the entire State. Unfortunately, eastern Oregon is more vulnerable and losing one job here equals losing 300 jobs on the western side of the State.

Please stop and think about the consequences of HB 2020 and reject it.

Sincerely,



Bill Harvey, Chair  
Baker County Commission