

OrCAN

Oregon Climate & Agriculture Network

Testimony to the Natural Resources Subcommittee of Joint Committee on Ways and Means In support of the HB 2020

June 6, 2019

Co-chairs Taylor and Reardon and Members of the Committee,

Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network represents over 250 agricultural stakeholders including farms, ranches, vineyards and forest landowners from all parts of the state, who want to see strong climate policy and recognize that Oregon agriculture can *and* should be part of the solution. We strongly support HB 2020.

The Clean Energy Jobs bill is a win for the environment *and* the economy! The agriculture economy in California has doubled in size in the last decade with all their environmental protections in place, including cap-and-invest. It went from less than \$10 billion in 2006 (when AB 32 passed) to more than \$20 billion in 2017 (the latest number available).

Source: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/statistics/PDFs/2017AgExports.pdf>

Revenue will be invested in projects in our communities that reduce and sequester greenhouse gas emissions.

HB 2020 will help Oregon agriculture operations **lower overall energy use to save money today** and create resiliency for tomorrow. Farmers can benefit from incentives for climate-friendly practices which reduce energy use, utilize renewables and sequester carbon in the soil such as:

- Upgrading irrigation systems to be more efficient, using less energy and lowering costs;
- Adding on-site solar, wind, geo-thermal or biogas electricity to independently generate energy with no cost for fuel;
- Fueling up vehicles close to the operation: most farms have electricity but not diesel pumps;
- Adopting practices that sequester carbon in the soil, which improve soil health and increase productivity.

We support the provision in the –A 101 Amendment to help Oregon farmers upgrade diesel equipment to more efficient, less-polluting alternatives.

Existing carbon pricing programs show us how it can be done. California’s cap-and-invest program has allocated \$197 million to the “Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions” Program (the FARMER Program) to help farmers, commercial nurseries and loggers acquire cleaner duty trucks, to agricultural pump engines, harvesting equipment, tractors and other equipment. Their program will cover up to 65% of the cost of a cleaner new or used heavy duty truck, up to 80% of other equipment. These are real, tangible savings that improve the bottom line by making operations more efficient and improving air quality for all. In 2018, California provided \$13.2 million for **342 projects** which have the expected benefits of reducing CO₂ equivalent greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 10,000 Metric Tons. We can follow their lead.

Over 200 agriculture stakeholders including farms, ranches, vineyards and forest-land owners from all parts of the state, have signed on to a letter in support of HB 2020. They want to see strong climate policy and recognize that Oregon agriculture can, and should be, part of the solution.

www.oregonclimateag.org