

**From:** [Jen Hamaker](#)  
**To:** [SENR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose Costly Cap and Trade in SB 1530  
**Date:** Thursday, February 6, 2020 10:00:06 PM

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Dear Chair Dembrow,

Please feel free to copy, paste, edit, send and share my letter - make it yours! Send it in!! Below are the emails to send your letters to.

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Email:

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

Members of the Committee email addresses:

[Sen.MichaelDembrow@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Sen.MichaelDembrow@oregonlegislature.gov)

[Sen.AlanOlsen@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Sen.AlanOlsen@oregonlegislature.gov)

[Sen.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Sen.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov)

[Sen.FloydProzanski@OregonLegislature.gov](mailto:Sen.FloydProzanski@OregonLegislature.gov)

[Sen.ArnieRoblan@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Sen.ArnieRoblan@oregonlegislature.gov)

My name is Jen Hamaker, I'm a 6th generation Oregonian. Generations on my Dad's side have relied on Oregon's fishing industry. On my mothers side, generations have worked and relied on the timber and lumber industries. I have a vested interest in Oregon's natural resource industries.

Oregon's natural resource industries are committed to and rely on stewardship and sustainability; we are part of the solution. Oregon is already a leader in building one of the cleanest economies in the country. Oregon's forests sequester approximately 11 billion tons of carbon dioxide equivalents, and annually withdraw 23 million to 63 million additional tons from the atmosphere, according to the Global Warming Commission's figures. This is equivalent to all the annual emissions from the transportation, utility and industrial sectors. Support our farms and forest businesses and you wont need to levy taxes against the very businesses who capture and sequester carbon.

Cap and Trade schemes are attractive to governments because they generates revenue through bureaucratically set goals, taxes and penalties with little accountability by the lawmakers who proposed, and voted in the laws.

Elected officials come and go, but their rules, regulations, laws, fees, and taxes stay.

If SB 1530 is passed, Oregon will make money regardless of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions compliance. In essence, companies would be free to pollute as long as they pay the state's ransom. This does not decrease GHG's.

SB 1530 will not decrease global greenhouse gas emissions, but it will reduce the viability of Oregon's homegrown businesses, and Oregon's natural resource industries and levy downstream financial impacts, specifically on rural Oregonians.

SB1530 makes Oregon trucking, logging, transportation, lumber, farming, and commercial fishing, less competitive. With 80% of commodities leaving the state, it is critical that Oregon maintain a competitive edge in the global marketplace. These businesses have a limited ability to recoup added production costs. Cap-and-trade will reduce our competitiveness by levying a new layer of costs onto Oregon businesses that our counterparts in other states and parts of the world don't have.

This bill requires lengthy and costly paperwork to be filed which would cost Oregon businesses more time and expense. When the cost to maintain and manage our farms and forests go up, some businesses must close or be forced to sell. This is not good for Oregon.

SB 1530 taxes important valued businesses to Oregon, such as food processing facilities and sawmills, that are critical to farmers and forest landowners. If any of these associated manufacturing businesses are lost or move out of Oregon, farmers and ranchers will have to transport their products farther. Not to mention the additional release of carbon due to further transportation. To compound this impact, whether transportation is by truck, rail, barge or ship, the fuel will cost more due to proposed legislation.

SB 1530 turns the decision-making over to the DEQ, a bureaucracy with few checks on the system. Oregon's DEQ does not have a role in regulating industries in Oregon and is ill-equipped to take up protocols. I do not support provisions that give DEQ rulemaking authority over proposed offset protocols and incentive programs for the agricultural, lumber, timber, fishing, transportation, industry sectors.

SB 1530 gives Environmental Justice Task Force the responsibility for reviewing and recommending investments of revenues derived from this Cap and Trade Bill. This body is neither elected nor organized to provide expertise with regard to sequestration practices on Oregon's farms and forests.

Many natural gas customers will see rate increases the first year of the program. These added costs will increase each year without an off-ramp for struggling businesses.

Propane customers receive no rate relief in the cap-and-trade bill and will face a minimum \$0.16/ gallon increase in 2022. The bill will significantly increase costs for families located outside of metropolitan areas. Propane is the primary fuel to heat homes and schools in rural communities.

There are no renewable technological solutions that can get Oregon's economy to a carbon neutral, carbon free, or fossil free state. Solar and wind sources are not reliable enough nor produce enough to sustain our population, especially in rural Oregon communities.

Add these everyday price increases to the \$BILLIONS in new taxes that we did not get to vote on, under the Supermajority's reign, and were looking at over \$3,000/yr in additional taxes per household. Rural Oregon will be hit hard. This bill does not have balance nor enough support for our rural communities to prosper.

There are no renewable technological solutions that can get Oregon's economy to a carbon neutral, carbon free, or fossil free state. Solar and wind sources are not reliable enough nor produce enough to sustain our population, especially in rural Oregon communities.

A free-market approach, where men and women can exercise our entrepreneurial spirit and sequester innovative breakthroughs, is the best hope, along with carbon sequestration through good forest management. Good stewardship comes from private resources combined with clear and well-structured property rights. Oregon's Forest Practices Act already details the strictest rules which protect our riparian land, wildlife, and critical habitat while sustainably managing our timberland.

I urge you to oppose the cap-and-trade bill (LC 19). Oregon's Natural Resource businesses, rural communities and families can't afford this policy, and more work needs to be done to address the concerns raised by farmers, ranchers, and loggers.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Jen Hamaker

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Thanks to improved forest management, we have more trees in America today than we had 100 years ago.

Sincerely,

Jen Hamaker  
88080 Heather Dr  
Springfield, OR 97478  
jenhamaker1@gmail.com