

**BTN of OREGON**  
**JOINT COMMITTEE ON CARBON REDUCTION**

**February 8, 2020**

BTN of Oregon is a family run Christmas Tree farm in Marion County. BTN was started by Mike Stone 50+ years ago and grown to sustain our whole family. Today my husband Ben, with his two brothers Tyler, and Nathan continue the farm as the second generation of Christmas Tree farmers. The third generation is learning everyday how to carry on our business. I write today to express my concerns with SB 1530 as drafted.

This bill will make getting our product to market even more costly than it is today. We care for our tree's year around with little certainty of the market during harvest. Like everyone else faced with increasing operating cost we will have little option but either to pass the cost onto the consumer or take an additional loss. Did you know that we do not see a return on our trees for 5-9 years. With this SB 1530 it will make it almost impossible to carry costs for that long, thus making Christmas trees almost impossible to farm.

The loss of market share in our industry has a much larger impact than just financial. Consumers are being driven to fake trees that are extremely toxic to our environment. In record numbers people are shifting their buying habit's away from the environmentally friendly, oxygen producing, renewable resource, that is the "Real Christmas" tree, to the petroleum-based, lead paint, insect-infested, Chinese wooden stemmed pipe cleaner fake Christmas tree.

In my opinion, the carbon emissions that our family farm produces in growing our trees pales in comparison to the fake alternatives produced here and abroad. Trees grown locally directly sequester carbon, contribute to the local economy, and provide a holiday experience unmatched by artificial copies.

My family asks you to vote "No" on SB 1530 as drafted. Protect the family farm from increased cost under cap and trade, as well as the invasion of fake trees. We believe local agriculture is the solution and not the cause. Our Oregon trees are enjoyed all over the country and provide benefits beyond environmental and economic.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have questions, I can be reached at [Lisa@btnoforegon.com](mailto:Lisa@btnoforegon.com)

Lisa Stone  
BTN of Oregon  
Salem, OR