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February 19, 2020

**Sent Via Email**

The Honorable Paul Holvey, Chair  
& Honorable Members of the  
House Committee On Rules  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Opposition to HB 4167

Dear Representative Holvey,

On behalf of the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce, our nearly 400 members representing 17,000 Douglas County employees, I wish to express our concerns about the negative impacts of HB 4167 on rural Oregon. If passed, HB 4167 will have significant adverse impacts not just on our local businesses, but families in Douglas County.

Much debate has gone on about cap and trade, and specifically about this proposed legislation. This bill will be devastating to rural businesses—large and small—and all Oregonians. This bill will increase the cost of living and working in Oregon. Every resident will bear the cost of fuel increases and increased natural gas rates, while having a negligible positive affect on greenhouse gas emissions.

The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce opposes HB 4167 for a number of reasons, but specifically the following:

- HB 4167 hurts small businesses and working Oregonians. Cap and Trade brings with it increased costs of everyday items like fuel, electricity, food, and household goods. The average family would pay an estimated \$700-\$1,000 more per year in higher costs for these items, which would include an immediate 22-cent increase in gas prices. Cap and Trade will harm rural economies.
- HB 4167 hurts our economy with lost jobs and backroom deal making. Politically connected corporations would have an unfair advantage to escape the tax, while less politically connected businesses would face higher taxes and costs. Cap and Trade would cost Oregon thousands of living wage jobs as businesses move to other states with higher carbon emissions.
- HB 4167 hurts Oregonians with wasteful spending. Cap and Trade would allow unelected state bureaucrats to raise taxes and costs on businesses and consumers, without a vote of the legislature, at a rate of \$700 million per year. There is no accountable plan for spending the additional money. This is a California-sized policy that would burden Oregonians with additional taxes and increased costs that impact everyday life.

*To advocate for and be the voice of the business community in the greater Roseburg area.*

*To strengthen, enhance and protect our members through political advocacy, economical development, community promotion and member programs and services.*



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- Carbon can be addressed without new taxes. We cannot afford to spend \$20 million to implement this when there are real issues like the homeless crisis that could better use our precious tax dollars. Oregon cannot afford more costly programs that waste tax dollars and don't have good outcomes for the people of this state.
- The clause currently included in the proposed bill hides special interest deals. That clause should be removed.

Oregon voters are not uneducated or lacking the mental capacity to understand complex issues. To infer such is, at best, disrespectful to the great citizens of this state—at worst, a complete undermining of Oregon voters. Remove the emergency clause and allow voters their right to vote on this issue.

I plead to your good conscience and respectfully request you support local businesses and the citizens in our state and oppose HB 4167. Oregonians, particularly, those of us in rural Oregon, cannot afford to bear the burden of this legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

ROSEBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Debra L. Fromdahl, IOM  
President & CEO

cc: The Honorable Dallas Heard  
The Honorable Floyd Prozanski  
The Honorable David Brock-Smith  
The Honorable Gary Leif  
The Honorable Cedric Hayden

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