

Honorable Representatives,

I wish to register my strong opposition to Oregon House Bill 4167. Just as with SB 1530 and 1574, it is poorly written, would not be transparent, they pick and choose who would be subject to the new regulations and who wouldn't be, and basic economics dictate that they will cause a financial crisis for Oregon's already diminishing middle class.

The governor and certain legislators throw around the term "democracy," but trying to pass such radical legislation not once (HB 2020), **but six times** (last year's HB 2020 and the barrage of five senate and house bills this session regarding drastic reductions in "greenhouse gases") without a vote of the people is nowhere near a democracy. Such actions by a super-majority party dangerously approach an *autocratic oligarchy*. Why is the supermajority so adamantly opposed to referring these bills to a vote of the people? Most of us are not as ignorant as some legislators assume (i.e. Sen. Burdick and Rep. Kotek.) If the legislation in any or all of these bills is just and legitimate, the people will pass them and your opposition would then have no real recourse.

Just like SB 1530, HB 4167 section 6 excludes fuel used by aircraft, watercraft, and railroad locomotives, and emissions from landfills. This leaves the financial burden on Oregon families and the trucking industry, while big corporations like United Airlines, Union Pacific, and Hanjin won't be affected. That is just plain wrong.

It is simple, basic economics that all of the increased costs associated HB 4167, particularly fuel and utility costs, will have a very negative impact on working Oregonians and the economy in general. For example, it will cost significantly more for trucks to get food to the grocery store. The grocery store will have to pay more to the trucking company or private truck driver for their food deliveries. The store is then forced to pass on the price increase to its customers. Families paying more for groceries, transportation and utilities will have less money to spend otherwise, thus the state's economy will slow if not stall altogether. As someone once said, "It all rolls downhill." In this case it is middle class Oregonian at the bottom of the proverbial hill (the rich could afford it, and the poor would get assistance.)

Oregon is already a national leader when it comes to environmental stewardship. Thanks to pioneers in this arena like Governors Tom McCall and Bob Straub, Oregon has some of the strictest laws and regulations in the country designed to protect our environment. In fact, according to the Oregon Department of Energy's 2018 Biennial Energy Report, Oregon's population increased 19% from the year 2000 to 2016, and our gross domestic product increased an impressive 93%. Numbers like this might lead some to believe that the consumption of energy would also increase along with associated emissions. But that was not the case - energy consumption dropped by 12.5%! In 2018 The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy ranked Oregon the seventh most energy efficient state in the US. In a telephone conference on November 6, 2019, Oregon's ranking rose to #4. What Oregon has already done and is doing works well without causing the additional financial burdens on average working Oregonians or businesses, particularly small independent businesses. The statistics

prove that Oregon is not a gross polluter and our citizens and businesses should not be penalized as if they were. Last year's failed senate bill and this session's five senate and house bills would do little to bring about even the slightest decrease in the nation's greenhouse gas emissions. All it *would* do is drive businesses and some longtime residents out of the state, and transform Oregon's remaining middle class into the working poor.

I respectfully beg you to either kill HB 4167 or refer it to a vote of the people. In the case of a vote, if you support "democracy," then let it work.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Russell S. Bohanon,
Gresham