



hrules.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

February 19, 2020

HB 4159, HB 4167, SB 1504, SB 1530, SB 1574

Dear Committee,

Bill Harvey
Commission Chair
bharvey@bakercounty.org

Baker County strongly opposes all of the bills relating to Cap and Trade, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and that are based on climate change and all of their economic crushing facets. These include, and are not limited to, HB 4159, HB 4167, SB 1504, SB 1530, SB 1574.

We urge the legislature to show common sense and compassion as it discusses the impacts of these bills and ultimately, not pass them.

Throughout the process, the legislature has received testimony, written and in person, on the economy destroying impacts especially to rural counties. Please, do not take these testimonies lightly. It is our lives and livelihoods that will be decimated.

The climate bills will be impossible to fully implement and are technologically impossible at this time. Renewable energy resources are dependent on environmental conditions that are beyond human control. The intermittency of wind and solar electricity generation necessitates a huge expansion of storage infrastructure. Where will this infrastructure be located? System maintenance and operation alone will cost millions of dollars annually. The costs will be relayed to the consumer which will increase their energy bills significantly and potentially will lead to widespread energy poverty. Citizens will have to choose which to pay for; food, medicines, housing, transportation, or electricity.

The climate bills are a budgetary nightmare. At the very beginning of the program the monetary impacts, taxes, are unknown. All of these taxes will require budgetary action, but are not being directed by the vote of the people it effects.

The climate bills are antithetical to the principles of free market capitalism and private property rights; it is a thinly veiled attempt to usher in policies that create a socialist society. It is a blatant statement by the supermajority and the governor that the will of the people will be ignored. They are no longer serving the will, or the safety, health, and economic viability of the State's citizens.

Repeatedly, eastern counties have provided hard evidence that these bills will decimate the population. This fact does not seem to matter to the Oregon legislature. We have provided testimony to the fact that businesses will move out of state and

actually increase output of emissions because it is not regulated. This fact does not seem to matter to the Oregon legislature.

The proposal of the multitude of climate bills have no semblance of connection to emissions or climate change. The offer of financial help to high poverty areas, that Oregon creates through the passage of this bill, will give the state more overreach and control the actions of the citizens. Baker County, and the rest of eastern Oregon, does not want your handouts. We want to remain economically viable by our own hands in our own counties. No collections of revenue-raising measures will ever pay for its implementation. It will completely destroy the economy and the societal fabric of Oregon.

Please do what's right and not pass these bills. Such major public policies that affect every Oregonian should go through a referral to ballot allowing all Oregonians to have a voice in the issues.

Sincerely,



Bill Harvey, Chair
Baker County Commission