

Dear Sirs and Madams:

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.

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.

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.

Sincerely,

Debra L. Reed  
Retired Rural Grandmother!!!!!!