

NO on HB 2021.

A placeholder. Isn't that what it's called? Submitting a bill which has no real language other than "a study" in order to hold its place in line until the real agenda can be revealed. The -1 Amendment wiped out the whole text of the originally submitted bill and replaced it with a 36-page document which was the forerunner amendment of 7 subsequent amendments. And now, evidently, there is an 8th amendment, or the -5 Amendment which was brought to light only hours prior to its scheduled work session; and, as of my writing this, still has not been made available to the public. An amendment which is apparently trying to once again force Cap and Trade into law.

This -5 Amendment was released to neither the general public nor the Republican members of the committee to which it is currently assigned. The only knowledge of what is in this amendment is what has been provided to the public by the legislators AFTER THE FACT. To quote the House Republican Leader, Christine Drazen, "The last thing we should do during this precarious pandemic session is conceive, draft and finalize legislation behind closed doors. Discussing a contentious proposal in a committee without ever providing it to the public beforehand is not transparent. It's a false formality with the intention of passing laws that have zero public input. That's breaking a promise we made to Oregonians ahead of this virtual session."

My overall question is: What was the purpose of keeping this latest information from being released? The overall obvious answer is: Because the legislators behind this latest amendment know that its revised contents are controversial to the opponents; and they know this because it was made LOUD and CLEAR that many, many people and companies are opposed to "Cap and Trade". And this was made LOUD and CLEAR by the actions of those opponents on Feb 6th of last year. The sheer numbers of those opposed (thousands) as compared to the proponents (hundreds) (Feb 11th – one week later) clearly underline where the people stand in relation to Cap and Trade.

As REPRESENTATIVES of the people, it is your responsibility to represent us. While I agree that ALL voices, pro or con, deserve to be represented, when the OVERWHELMING response is against a particularly contentious bill, those voices should be respected; and, REPRESENTED. The legislature is not a private organization to make a legislator's pet project go forward.

If an opposing party in the legislature cannot/will not commit to transparency, cannot/will not commit to fair representation, and cannot/will not respect fellow legislators and provide them with the information they need in order to make an informed decision, then something is seriously wrong. Something is broken. And that which is broken and wrong needs to be fixed and made right; but not on the backs of, and to the detriment of, the people to whom you claim to REPRESENT.

To still not have the -5 Amendment text available to the public is reprehensible. To not allow opposing testimony to be given in the same amount of time frame as was given to supportive testimony is reprehensible. To not listen to the people and to continue to go forward with the amendment after pulling a "fast-one" is... reprehensible.

Once again. NO on HB 2021.

Wendy L Berger Wood  
Registered Voter of House District 32