

April 13, 2015

House Energy and Environment Committee

Chair Vega Pederson, and members of the committee,

I'm Bob Sowdon from Cottage Grove, a volunteer analyst for the Oregon Citizens Lobby.

I urge a NO vote to adopt a cap and trade dividend program and to pursue an active program to reduce the amount of Carbon as the cost of such a program would be an economic burden for Oregon business and its citizens.

HB3250 is a Carbon Cap and Trade program with a twist to make the cost of carbon based energy and fuel raise, to use less carbon based energy and encourage use of renewable energy sources, with the cost to the importer, seller, deliverer or distributor of fuel and electricity that use carbon, these taxes would then be returned to the tax payer equally as a refund in their tax return.

I question with distributions being treated as refunds under ORS 314.415, it is unclear that those that do not have reported incomes would benefit, as many of the elderly, those that can least afford a raise in the cost of food and goods. Personally being retired, and with Social Security and a small monthly return on investments, the rise in costs necessitate the dipping into savings with regularity just to maintain our home and property.

HB3470 creates regulatory authority to the Environmental Quality Commission to **adopt by rule** statewide greenhouse gas emissions limits for years 2020 and 2050 and to adopt interim statewide greenhouse gas emissions limits consistent with 2050 limit every five years.

I find the statements in the legislation very misleading, as Dividends paid under a cap-and-dividend program will stimulate the economy. How would that be possible, as the dividends are designed to offset the necessary increase in the cost of everyday items and electricity as the costs to produce and deliver goods will increase. As stated "a cap-and-dividend program helps to ensure that Oregon households can afford the energy"

Also "the cap-and-dividend program offers an environmentally effective and economically efficient response to climate change." Instead of business in Oregon, re-investing money to make improvements or expand, money will be used to purchase carbon credits to maintain their current status or lay off employees.

Where is an economic impact statement? Just how much is this going to cost Oregon?

These are questions I believe that Oregonians deserve to know before implementing a massive enforceable cap and trade program.

Thank you,

Bob Sowdon
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Cottage Grove