

TO: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Dear Committee members:

I am opposed to SB 1530. Passage of this bill will cause much damage to the economy of Oregon and to many families that will be impacted by its implementation. There are other solutions to the CO2 issues before us which would be much less damaging to society as a whole, such as better management of our forests to reduce the extreme releases of carbon into the atmosphere resulting from wildfires. Planting more trees in previous clearcut areas and burn sites would increase the capacity of the forests to absorb CO2, provide jobs, improve air quality, and cost much less.

I am environmentally conscious. We installed solar panels in 2016 on our south facing roof and installed solar swimming pool heaters decades ago. We installed energy efficient skylights eliminating the need for most electric lighting in our house, garage, and barn during daylight hours. In addition we upgraded to a ductless mini-split heat pump within the last 4 years. We were incentivized by TAX CREDITS to do those things. You will catch more flies with honey than with vinegar, as the saying goes. We were happy to make those changes and seriously reduced our electric consumption as a result. The reduction in our electric bill made it a win-win situation for all. That is the type of policy I would like to see, where you encourage people to make the changes that are good for the environment by incentivizing rather than punitively coercing them to do what you want.

The way this bill goes about forcing change creates distrust, resistance, and attitudes of rebellion and revenge among the people you are representing. Is that what you want? I urge you to reconsider how you are going about mandating the changes you want to see occur, rather than create the social upheaval and rebellion that will happen if this bill becomes law.

It is clear to me that this bill is more about completely changing our economy than anything having to do with carbon issues. LET US VOTE ON IT.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jean M. Hart
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