

From: [Brent Atkinson](#)
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Subject: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources SB1530
Date: Monday, February 10, 2020 7:45:47 PM

Ethics

I have to question the ethics of SB1530. Not only are there ethical questions about this proposed legislation, but also the methods to pass this bill. Ethics are the principles that govern a person's behavior and activities. If nothing else, the people of Oregon expect their elected officials to act with the highest ethical standards and ensure their actions and any considered legislation rises to the same level.

The short session wasn't intended to enact massive new legislation. The intent of the voters was to allow for small adjustments to both laws and budget. Introducing a \$600M tax which creates a new department is not within the intent of the short session. I question the ethics of any attempt to pass such a grandiose new law in the short session.

Yes, SB 1530 is a tax. While it is being introduced as a non-revenue bill, taking \$600M from the citizens of Oregon is nothing short of a massive tax. It has been disguised for the sole purpose of avoiding the higher voting threshold to enact tax legislation. I question the ethics of not calling new tax legislation anything but a tax for the sole intent of thwarting the Oregon constitution and the will of all Oregonians.

An emergency clause is attached to SB1530. This type of legislation has been considered for years without action. How is it an emergency now? The only reason for attaching the emergency clause is to ensure the initiative petition process is shut down before it begins. I question the ethics of non-emergent legislation from which the voters are prevented from voting.

There is specific language to ensure the process behind cap and trade credits are hidden from public scrutiny. The state has a transparency problem. From a Governor who left office amid an ethics scandal to a public records advocate who stepped down after extraordinary pressure from our current governor to the Senate scandal involving XXXXX, the state is rife with transparency problems. I question the ethics of any legislation which prohibits robust public scrutiny.

These are only a few of the ethical questions surrounding the consideration of SB1530 and the methods being used to pass this behemoth new tax. I'm sure the legislative body has the best of intentions with this bill, however the ethical problems associated with this product and process lead to serious questions. History is replete with people who try to do the right thing but lose sight of doing it the right way. I implore you all to do the right thing and kill this proposal and refer any type of new tax legislation to the people of Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration,

Brent Atkinson

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