

**From:** [Jalina Rohlf](#)  
**To:** [SENR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** SB1530  
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I write this as I sit here with my two young sons who are playing with their toy trucks and tractors, excitedly waiting for the next load of cattle to be hauled home on the cattle truck. I'm looking at our next generation who love nothing more than being able to ride in the trucks or tractors with their daddy, mommy, grandpa, or grandma. They love nothing more than being outside on the ranch and being a part of the farm/ ranch life; of feeding, checking, moving cattle and cutting and moving hay. This is what they find their joy in. This is what their parents find their happiness in. It's our way of life, it's the way we have chosen to live. It's my where my husband finds his peace. My husband works in law enforcement to help support our way life. When he's had a hard day on the job, he comes home and walks through the cows.

A little background about who I am; I am a sixth-generation Oregonian. Part of my family came on the Oregon Trail, another part side around the horn of South America at the age of 11 and came in the port of Astoria. I come from a line of pioneers, shepherders, ranchers, farmers, loggers, teachers, and sawmill workers. I grew up in rural Columbia County Oregon on a family farm that has been in the family since it was homesteaded in the mid-late 1800's. I grew up the daughter of a farmer, logger, and sawmill worker. I was taught a that hard work ethic is all I need to help provide my family with the wonderful life of rural living. Both my older brothers and I worked in the sawmill to support our college educations. (We all went to Oregon colleges) I graduated from Eastern Oregon University with an Oregon State University degree in Crop and Soil science with a minor in Rangeland Ecology and Management. My father and oldest brother still works there to support their families. I'm now lucky enough to live on land of my own in rural Union County on a ranch where we raise our kids, cattle, and hay to feed our cows. I am proud of my roots and have the privilege to be a stay at home mother, rancher, and law enforcement wife. Did you catch the theme there?? Many of us working Oregonians, are Oregon born and bred!

I'm writing to you to give a voice to our rural way of life. The life we have chosen to live and raise our family. The choice that brings us happiness. The choice we have because of the country we live in and because of the sacrifice and service of men and women to protect that right. As of declaration of independence stated, "pursuit of happiness." By passing cap and trade bills you are taking away our choice to pursue what makes us happy. You are taking away not only my right to choose to live the life that makes me happy, but the choice of my children's as well. You are taking away our way of life. The cap and trade bills are taxing away our choice to live our life the way we choose. Because let's face it you don't get into farming, ranching, and logging to make a quick buck. It's a lifestyle choice. You're taking this away, for what? Minimal carbon reduction that will have infinitesimal impact on the climate. But will have enormous and devastating results to rural Oregon and our way of life; the way of life that provides food and products to the rest of Oregonians, so they can live the life they choose?

The people who live and work in rural Oregon such as our farmers, ranchers, and loggers are our state's biggest conservationists. We manage the land for our future generations by using tools found in natural cycles such as disturbances. (examples of natural disturbance are fire and grazing) The healthiest ecosystems are those that are diverse. Biodiversity is the sign of a healthy ecosystem, it's good for other plant, animal, and microbe life. **More biodiversity = more soil organic carbon storage.** Logging acts as a natural cycle of disturbance by selectively cutting trees those diseased and not in select areas. This ensures that our forest (the private managed ones) are composed of trees of varying ages thus creating habitat for a multitude of species. Also, by planting and ensuring there are young trees in our forest to sequester more carbon from our atmosphere. Logging also produces numerous products that you and use in our daily lives. Grazing keeps our grasslands and rangelands healthy by promoting biodiversity by increase the productivity of lands by disturbing them as natural cycle does with the use of ungulates (hoofed animals). This is accomplished as grazing keep dominant species on the grass and rangelands in check by preventing monocultures from forming and ensuring biodiversity. Again, **More biodiversity = more soil organic carbon**

**storage.** If the Cap and Trade bills are truly about reducing carbon emissions, why aren't we putting money into local jobs in that are already helping sequester carbon through natural cycles?

I worked for a conservation district in Eastern Oregon during college and after I graduated as well. During that experience, I learned more from the producers than they learned from me at times. Some examples:

- I was discussing an invasive weed that we found on a rancher's property and during my conversation with him he turned to me and asked me, what's the nutritional value of that weed? He was asking about grazing the weed to eradicate it. I was a little dumbfounded because that wasn't the approach I was schooled in dealing with the invasive weed. I told him I had no idea and would have to look it up and get back to him.
- Another example again was discussing weed control issues with a rancher on a particularly widespread invasive weed was that creates and thatch thus killing all other plants around it and animals don't like to graze it. He mentioned he experienced success in controlling it with grazing if he grazed early and intensively, it would keep the weed in check.

I give you these examples of people who live on land as their way of life and the life of generations before them; people who have a better working knowledge of the lands and how to manage them than most anyone. People of rural Oregon understand our land and how to conserve it for our next generations. They take care of it every day and understand our impacts on it better than those who do not live on it every day. Not only do they have their own hands on experience with it, but they have generations of knowledge that's been passed on to them. Rural Oregonians are the people who conserve the land for not only their families and future generations, but for you and everyone else as well. Rural Oregonians livelihoods depend on them producing their products and getting them to market for the rest of the Oregon to consume. It's the rural Oregonians who will feel the greatest burden of the Cap and Trade bills first, but the burden will be everyone's to bear as the costs for goods increase and the quality decrease as local products won't be able to compete and will be replaced with cheaper and out sourced products of questionable origins.

The Cap and Trade bill is not truly about reducing our carbon emissions but about making money off the hard-working rural Oregonian by taxing us. This bill is a push to further control how Oregonians chose to live their lives and to make a profit while doing so. Why not put our taxpayer's dollars where they will do the best for the environment and people, in true green jobs where resources are renewable in our forests, grasslands, rangelands, and farmlands? The Cap and Trade bills will tax rural Oregonians out of our lifestyle and will provide "green" jobs for us in the cities doing what? Creating toxic solar panels and batteries or windmills? No, we will keep our real green jobs in the forests, grasslands, farmlands, and rangelands of rural Oregon.

Oregonians can't afford to bear the burden of the world's carbon emissions. Our tax money would be better spent pushing for other countries to adopt policies that our state already has in place. To use our already low carbon emissions as an example of how it can be accomplished. Not further taxing hard working Oregonians out of their way of life. Cap and Trade bills will take away the working Oregonians ability to compete in our economy by increasing our costs and decreasing our profits, to the point where we can no longer survive. I'm writing this to encourage YOU our legislatures to represent the people who voted for YOU. The people who elected YOU to be our voice and to stand up for us. For YOU to ensure bills do not pass that hurt and take away our choices. We elected for YOU to protect Oregon and our way of life for us and for our children, so we all have the choice to choose how we live our lives to pursue what makes us happy. Pass bills that conserve our state for us and our future generations, not ones that kill it with burdensome taxes.

Sincerely,

Jalina Rohlf