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March 5, 2019

The Honorable Michael Dembrow, Co-Chair
The Honorable Karin Power, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Opposition to HB 2020

Dear Co-Chairs Dembrow and Power and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce, our more than 400 members representing 17,000 Douglas County employees, I wish to express our concerns about the impacts of HB 2020 on my local community. HB 2020, if passed, will have significant negative impacts not just on local businesses, but families in our county.

The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce and our member businesses are committed to growing business opportunities and providing family-wage jobs for our citizens throughout Douglas County. As an organization, our primary goal is to represent our local business owners, especially small businesses, and protect their interests so they can continue to grow and provide those jobs. I am proud of the role our members—small, medium and large businesses—play in making Oregon a current leader in renewable energy and low carbon emissions.

Unfortunately, HB 2020 will only drive up the cost of everyday needs for both citizens and businesses of Douglas County and Oregon. These costs, while adversely affecting job growth across the state, will be particularly devastating for Oregon's rural communities, like Douglas County.

If Oregon passes Cap and Trade law, it will increase the cost of living and working in Oregon. Every resident will bear the cost of fuel increases and increased natural gas rates. The price of fuel is projected to increase by at least \$.16/gallon, giving Oregon the third-highest gas prices in the country. It is expected that natural gas prices would see double digit increases by early 2020.

These increases will be devastating to local families and businesses in rural communities that already struggle and face challenges unknown to urban areas of the state. As currently proposed, HB 2020 greatly penalizes companies that make or grow things in Oregon; the same companies that allow Douglas County, our citizens and small businesses, to survive. Companies throughout Oregon would pay higher energy and operating costs, resulting in a decrease of family-wage jobs. This would be gutting to Oregon's rural communities, especially Douglas County.

I plead to your good conscience and respectfully request you support local businesses in our state and oppose HB 2020. Oregonians, particularly, those of us in rural Oregon, cannot afford to bear the burden of this legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

ROSEBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Debra L. Fromdahl, IOM
President & CEO

cc: Members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction
Member of Douglas County's State Legislative Delegation



To advocate for and be the voice of the business community in the greater Roseburg area.

To strengthen, enhance and protect our members through political advocacy, economical development, community promotion and member programs and services.