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RoseburgChamber.com

August 26, 2024

Ms. Nicole Singh
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Via Electronic Submission: ccp.2024@deq.oregon.gov

Re: Comments on Proposed 2024 Climate Protection Program

Dear Ms. Singh,

On behalf of the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce and the organizations we represent in Roseburg and throughout Douglas County, Oregon, I'm writing to express our concerns regarding the DEQ's 2024 Climate Protection Program (CPP).

While the environmental goals of the CPP are commendable, the financial burden it places on our local businesses, residents and all Oregonians cannot be overlooked. The program will increase energy costs for consumers, further straining household budgets that are already stretched thin. We urge you to prioritize lowering costs for families and businesses, not implement regulations like the CPP that drive energy prices even higher than they are today.

The harsh reality is compliance costs for fuel suppliers from programs like the CPP are passed on to the consumer, disproportionately impacting businesses, industries, non-profits and vulnerable communities in Oregon's rural areas, like Douglas County. With the most adverse impact being the financial hardship on low-income households in those rural communities that may struggle to transition to clean energy and are less resilient to price increases.

Affordability aside, natural gas is a vital fuel source for supporting economic growth. It provides a reliable and cost-effective energy supply for businesses, enabling consistent production and operational efficiency. Its affordability and availability help keep manufacturing costs low, bolstering economic vitality and competitiveness in Oregon, and essential to rural communities' economic sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns on behalf of our rural community. We urge the DEQ to carefully consider the economic impacts of the CPP program on families and businesses.

Best regards,

ROSEBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Debra L. Fromdahl".

Debra L. Fromdahl, IOM
President & CEO

**VISION
MISSION**

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.