



February 13, 2018

To: House Committee on Energy and Environment
Re: Cap and Trade/Cap and Invest Legislation HB 4001 and SB 1507,

The members of the Bend Chamber of Commerce are highly aware that climate change has diverse impacts on our members, our community and our planet. We support open dialogue and reasonable policies that are responsive to those impacts as our community continues to grow.

However, we have a number of serious concerns regarding the current discussions of Cap and Trade/Invest legislation.

Specifically, we are concerned that, although important, this legislation will detract from what we believe is the legislature's highest priority – to resolve the State of Oregon's financial future. This must remain the state's focus in order to help us pursue new, large-scale initiatives.

Additionally, the viable presence of the business sector within the rulemaking process is critical to helping to ensure an achievable Cap and Trade program that produces results, yet does not have adverse, irreversible effects on Oregon's economy.

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is currently years behind issuing Title 5 permits. We believe the new Cap and Trade legislation will further burden an already overwrought agency that does not have the staffing capacity to develop fair, achievable rulemaking. Further, we are concerned the agency cannot administer or implement such a significant new program.

Lastly, we believe good legislation offers incentives to those who want to take on a more aggressive stance to achieve clean air goals. This legislation must contain a viable grant pool for businesses who contribute to apply for funding new technology and methodologies to attain emissions targets.

For these reasons we are very concerned about the timing and substance of the proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

Katy Brooks
CEO