



OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE

For Immediate Release

Tuesday February 12, 2019
Contact: Greg Stiles, 503.986.1009
Greg.stiles@oregonlegislature.gov

Carbon committee caps testimony time, questions during HB 2020 hearing *Republicans express disappointment in limited time available to hear critical testimony*

SALEM, Ore. – The Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction concluded its second – and final – day of invited stakeholder panels Monday evening. The panels were packed with crucial testimony, including comments from transportation, natural resources, and industry sectors. Proponents and opponents testified before the committee in rotating panels organized by Committee Co-Chair Sen. Dembrow (D-Portland). It quickly became clear that there was a lot at stake for everyone impacted by the legislation.

“The winners and losers of this multi-billion-dollar cap and trade scheme were quite apparent at last night’s public hearing,” said House GOP Leader Carl Wilson (R-Grants Pass). “The payers outlined clearly how this bill will increase costs across their sectors, with dramatic increases in transportation and energy costs, with little ability to hold down those increases, potentially driving folks to look outside of Oregon for the same products. The takers are already lining up at this revenue trough, having little to no carbon footprint themselves, ready to take the payers’ dollars. In the end, the biggest losers are our hardworking families, their children, communities and the businesses that support them.”

Despite the fact several witnesses traveled hundreds of miles to provide testimony, the committee chairs limited testimony to only three minutes, allowing presenters only a short window to share the impact of the proposed legislation on their sectors, businesses and employees. While some questions were permitted by the committee’s presiding chair, others were limited as it was suggested the committee had to move on.

“I appreciated having the opportunity to ask some questions Monday night,” said Committee Vice Co-Chair, Rep. David Brock Smith (R-Port Orford). “However, the limited presentation time and overall forum unfortunately did not allow for the robust conversations needed and could be likened to a bad round of speed dating. I’m grateful that Committee Co-Chair Rep. Karin Power (D-Milwaukie) expressed her openness to scheduling future meetings with impacted stakeholders so that we may have a deeper discussion into the costs of this legislation in the future. There is so much at stake in this policy conversation. We need to make sure we are giving every voice an opportunity to be heard and that we are learning from the people and industries that would be most impacted by this legislation.”

###