



OREGON SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER PRESS RELEASE

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Senate Republicans Oppose Energy Plan They Say Would Increase Costs for Oregon Families and Weaken Economy

SALEM, Ore. – Senate Republican Leader Bruce Starr (R–Dundee) today submitted testimony on behalf of the Senate Republican Caucus opposing the Oregon Department of Energy’s proposed Transformational Integrated Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions (TIGHGER 2.0) [gap measures](#), warning that they would drive up costs for families, farmers, and businesses across the state.

“Oregonians are already stretched every time they fill up their tank or pay a utility bill. The last thing they need is policies that drive those costs even higher,” **Starr** said. “If it raises prices on families, farmers, and employers, it’s not workable. End of story.”

The full text of the testimony is as follows:

“On behalf of the Oregon Senate Republican Caucus, we urge the immediate reconsideration of the Oregon Department of Energy’s proposed Transformational Integrated Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions (TIGHGER 2.0) gap measures. While presented as draft concepts, these proposals are already being treated as actionable policy, and their real-world consequences would be significant. If pursued, they will raise energy costs, increase operational expenses for businesses, and further strain Oregonians already struggling with affordability.

We oppose these burdensome measures because they fail to account for the economic realities facing our state. Oregon’s businesses, farms, and families cannot absorb another wave of costly mandates without serious consequences.

Oregon’s agricultural sector illustrates what is at stake. Nearly 96 percent of farms are family-owned, supporting more than 692,000 jobs and generating \$136 billion in economic output—roughly 22 percent of the state’s economy. These operations not only drive 13 percent of Oregon’s GDP but also steward vast working lands that sustain biodiversity, open space, and rural communities. Yet they are already navigating rising costs, global market uncertainty, and increasing regulatory pressure. Proposed measures to reduce methane emissions, restrict nitrogen fertilizer use, and cut beef and pork production by 50 percent threaten the long-term viability of these family operations and the communities that depend on them.

The impact extends far beyond agriculture. Oregon’s manufacturing sector is already in a multiyear downturn, with job losses exceeding those of the Great Recession and near-bottom national rankings in growth. Adding new mandates to an already challenging

business climate will only accelerate business closures and relocation to neighboring states with more predictable and competitive policies.

Most importantly, these measures will hit Oregonians where it hurts most: their wallets. Nearly three-quarters of Oregonians report struggling with the rising cost of housing, food, and utilities. More than half have difficulty paying monthly bills, and nearly half cannot cover a \$500 emergency expense. Oregon is now the fifth least affordable state in the nation, with households spending approximately \$18,300 more annually on basic needs than they did in 2019. Policies that drive up energy costs, such as accelerated electrification mandates, heat pump requirements, and low-carbon fuel standards, will only deepen this affordability crisis, particularly for seniors on fixed incomes and low- to middle-income families.

For these reasons, the Oregon Senate Republican Caucus strongly opposes the TIGHGER 2.0 Project draft gap measures. The current process, marked by an extremely limited public comment period, is insufficient for proposals of this magnitude. ODOE should reject these recommendations, pause further action, and engage meaningfully with the Legislature, affected industries, and stakeholders across the state.

Oregonians deserve solutions that balance environmental goals with economic stability and affordability. That requires transparency, rigorous economic analysis, and policies grounded in the realities facing working families and job creators—not theoretical scenarios that risk doing more harm than good.

Senator Bruce Starr

Oregon Senate Republican Leader”

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