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Committees

Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction—Co Vice Chair

Joint Ways & Means Committee on Natural Resources

Agriculture & Land Use

Natural Resources

OREGON STATE LEGISLATURE
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[Click Here for the Bill](#)

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**Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction Moves
Bicameral & Bipartisan Legislation to Generate the
Needed Current Data on Oregon's Carbon
Sequestration throughout our Natural & Working
Lands for the Net-Zero Sequestration Benefits
Already Occurring Across the Landscape**

SALEM - The Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction passed out HB 3433 ([Click Here for Link](#)) during Friday's Committee Meeting, a bicameral-bipartisan bill drafted by the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction Co-Chair Rep. David Brock Smith (R-Port Orford), to collect the needed sequestration data occurring throughout our state prior to the implementation of a costly Cap & Trade Program (HB 2020) moving forward. Rep. Brock Smith has been engaged in this discussion since 2017 and has crafted legislation; with 30 bipartisan legislative sponsors and growing, that would address key data points needed for a statewide comprehensive carbon reduction program. "Currently, the majority party is moving a Cap & Trade Bill HB 2020 ([Click Here for Link](#)) that could link us to the California Carbon Market, will increase the costs of goods and services across the state, negatively impact urban & rural communities and their industries, while not having all of the necessary data to craft this sweeping legislation," said Rep. Brock Smith.

The Governor's Advisory Group on Global Warming introduced, "Oregon Strategy for Greenhouse Gas Reductions" in December of 2004. This report moved forward HB 3543 ([Click Here for Link](#)) in the '07 Legislative Session that established the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals for Oregon. Within the report however, critical data is missing: "the inventory [total carbon sources] does not include other land use and forest-management related sources and sinks, such as forest sequestration, because the data were not available."

"The forests within our state are the largest carbon sinks," said Rep. Daniel Bonham (R- The Dalles) and member of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction. "This data alone is critical to outlining a carbon sequestration plan for Oregon."

HB 3433 will produce the needed data for Oregon to move forward, this data includes:

Section 1 – Outlines shared harvest and management agreements with the USFS for harvest and fuels treatment on the Federal Forest, utilizing the Good Neighbor Authority.

Section 2 – Study on forest carbon flux and emissions due to wildfire, (a) the combustion (b) decomposition (c) lack of post fire harvest and the loss of stored carbon in subsequent wood products (d) loss of potential sequestration due to the lack of replanting across the impacted landscape.

Section 3 – Study on carbon sequestration from natural and working lands, (a) agriculture (b) innovations and strategies from our aggregate, steel and cross-laminated timber industries (c) air curtain burners/destructors and biochar production (A) forest products sequestration benefits (B) biochar benefits (d) seaweed production as livestock food additive to reduce emissions.

Section 4 – (2) ODE study electric grid for adequate capacity and infrastructure for EV charging in urban areas (3) will work with ODOT, PUC, TriMet, and electric utilities.

Section 5 – Study on small modular nuclear (Nuscale) (a) potential greenhouse gas emissions avoided (b) technological and economic viability (c) barriers for siting, permitting and regulation

Section 6 – repeals Sections 2-5 after studies delivered to legislature by September 15th, 2020.

Section 7 – DEQ will deliver report on the environmental, economic, health and other benefits realized through the implementation of the previously passed Low Carbon Fuel Standards in September 2020 as well as 2022.

Section 8 – DEQ will study and report on new jobs created in renewable energy sector (base '07 legislation required studies and only one has been performed in '11) the average wage rates and the provision of health care and other benefits for those jobs, as well as workforce training opportunities.

“I’m proud to co-sponsor HB 3433 with my colleagues,” said Representative Shelly Boshart Davis (R-Albany) and member of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction. “As a third generation Oregon farmer, we have been working our lands for the benefits of sequestering carbon for generations. To have our carbon emissions calculated without including the sequestration benefits of our farm and ranch lands is absurd, flies in the face of the Paris Accord’s Principals of a Net-Zero reduction goal and further hurts our working families across our state.”

Oregon produces roughly 65 million metric tons of CO₂ annually, which contributes 0.14 percent of global emissions. Oregon forests sequester roughly 31 million metric tons of CO₂ annually. This forest carbon stock data came from a bill previously drafted by Rep. Brock Smith in the '18 Legislative Session, however the data from the carbon sequestered annually within wood products has been studied, but has not been released to date. “It is critical to analyze the carbon sequestration data before moving with any cap & trade proposal,” said Rep. Bonham. “We must have this information so that we may lay out a plan that will continue to sequester more carbon, reduce emissions and remain economically viable for our working families across the state.”

Currently, the majority party's HB 2020 sets a beginning price on carbon at \$16 dollars a metric ton, which equates to a minimum of a \$0.16 cent a gallon tax increase on fuel. By linking to California's Cap & Trade Program, the ceiling could be \$68 dollars a metric ton, \$0.68 cent a gallon tax increase on fuel, or possibly higher. This is of course after recently passing HB 3427, a \$2.8 billion dollar gross receipts tax that has been discussed as a pyramiding sales tax. All this during a time of record tax revenues, with a \$1.4 billion dollar surplus to the state. This surplus belongs to the citizens of Oregon and should be refunded through a constitutional tax "kicker" rebate, although there has been talks by the majority party of taking these revenues from residents as well.

"Oregon is in unprecedented times, with reductions in emissions even as populations increase and record tax resources coming from our residents," said Rep. Brock Smith. "We must have the data outlined within our HB 3433 so that we can apply the necessary data to a Net-Zero concept of sequestration and emissions for any carbon bill that moves forward for Oregon. To be blunt, an overlay of billions of dollars in this cap & trade scheme, on top of the \$2.8 billion dollar gross receipts tax already passed, will have grave economic impacts to Oregon working families and their businesses that far exceeds any potential reduction benefit realized within the HB 2020 cap & trade scheme," said Rep. Brock Smith.

Both Rep. Brock Smith's Carbon Sequestration Study Bill HB 3433 and the majority party's Cap & Trade Bill were moved out of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction during Friday's Committee Meeting to the Joint Committee on Ways & Means.

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Rep. David Brock Smith represents House District 1, which includes Curry, Coos, Douglas and Josephine counties. This press release and an archive of previous press releases issued by Rep. David Brock Smith's office are available on the web at: www.oregonlegislature.gov/smithd