

Bill: Sawmills would be exempt from the cap

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California and Quebec, Canada, allowing Oregon businesses to buy allowances from elsewhere.

The legislation, still being ironed out in Salem, includes carve-outs for some industries.

Sawmills, where the majority of emissions are biogenic, or naturally influenced, would be exempt from the cap. Electric utilities like PacifiCorp, which serves most of Clatsop County through Pacific Power, and Portland General Electric, which has large natural gas plants in Columbia County, would receive free allowances through 2030 to account for work done to phase out coal power.

Gas utilities like NW Natural, the state's largest, would not receive free allowances.

Trade-exposed facilities like Wauna Mill would receive free allowances the first year.

Companies would pay for an increasing percentage of pollution allowances in proportion to the percentage decrease in the cap on emissions between 2022 and 2050. Georgia-Pacific would have to purchase an estimated \$123,000 worth of allowances in 2022, its bill increasing as the pollution cap lowers and the company becomes more responsible for covering allowances.

An independent analysis by Berkeley Economic Advising and Research showed that increases in energy prices resulting from the bill would be outweighed by the job creation in clean

Northwest Oregon industries affected by cap and trade

Facilities and 2017 emissions, in metric tons
(Carbon dioxide equivalent emissions are anthropogenic.)

- Georgia-Pacific Wauna Mill**
92326 Taylorville Road, Clatskanie
Emissions 257,824
- Portland General Electric-Beaver Generating Plant**
80997 Kallunki Road, Clatskanie
Emissions 1.01 million
- Portland General Electric-Port Westward Unit 2**
80997 Kallunki Road, Clatskanie
Emissions 104,700
- United States Gypsum Co.**
29073 Dike Road, Rainier
Emissions 42,882
- Dyno Nobel Inc.**
63149 Columbia River Hwy., Deer Island
Emissions 198,275
- Cascades Tissue Group**
1300 Kaster Road, St. Helens
Emissions 52,141

Edward Stratton and Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group
Source: Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality

industries. The state's economy would grow by 2.5 percent and add 23,000 jobs by 2050 under the proposed bill, the analysis concluded.

Job killer

The proposed legislation has raised concerns that rising fuel and other costs will create a competitive disadvantage and drive out higher-paying industrial jobs to

states and countries without carbon pricing. NW Natural has warned the bill will increase fuel prices 13 percent by 2021, 44 percent by 2035 and 60 percent by 2040.

Employees at Georgia-Pacific, owned by Koch Industries, have testified before the Legislature that the company might shift business away from the mill to avoid the additional costs. The pulp

and paper industry has called for a blanket exemption from carbon caps.

"Oregon is almost certain to lose jobs to states that have lesser environmental regulations and legislation resulting in far higher emissions," Bill Kerr, president of the United Steelworkers Union Local 1097 that represents more than 600 employees at Wauna, said during testi-

mony last month.

An economist for his union estimated the region could lose as many as 2,500 direct and indirect jobs if a mill like Wauna was to close, costing state and local governments more than \$20 million in revenue, Kerr said.

Chris McCabe, executive director of the Northwest Pulp and Paper Association,

testified last month that Oregon's mills are significantly ahead of the curve in reducing carbon emissions and using hydroelectric, biomass and other carbon-neutral power sources.

Without an exemption for trade-intensive facilities, he said, "Oregon will lose jobs and global emissions will increase. Losing Oregon jobs to other states or nations, while merely shifting the emissions elsewhere, does more harm than good."

Job creator

Those in support of the Clean Energy Jobs Bill have hailed it as a potential shot in the arm for battling climate change and building a more climate-friendly economy, potentially producing an estimated \$700 million a year from selling pollution permits.

Among the leading proponents are members of Oregon Business for Climate, a coalition of around 100 medium and large companies, including Astoria's Fort George Brewery.

"As members, we share in the organization's mission of reducing our statewide emissions while strengthening Oregon's economy," Jack Harris, the co-owner of Fort George, testified last month before the Legislature. "We believe that the cap-and-trade model that is the foundation of (the Clean Energy Jobs Bill) provides the lowest-cost option for achieving our reduction targets while also incentivizing and fostering innovation to Oregon's economy."

Clearcutting: 'Most Oregonians don't enjoy such protections for their drinking water'

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sediments and temperatures in waterways, endangering rural communities.

While many municipalities — including Astoria — control the forested watersheds that provide drinking water, smaller and less affluent communities are often dependent on waterways that run through private timberland, according to proponents.

"Unfortunately, most Oregonians don't enjoy such protections for their drinking water," said Greg Haller, executive director of the Pacific Rivers environmental group.

Haller said the evidence is "incontrovertible" that existing protections under the Oregon Forest Practices Act are insufficient to ensure safe drinking water.

The laws and regulations have been influenced by "Wall Street foresters" who stand the most to lose from HB 2656, he said.

Logging practices are aggravating water supply problems that will grow more serious over time with climate change, said John Talberth, senior economist

with the Sustainable Energy and Economy Network.

Streamflows in forests planted roughly four decades ago are 50 percent lower than in forests with trees between 150 to 500 years old, said Talberth.

Clearcutting, pesticide-spraying and fertilization are conducive to the kind of toxic algal blooms that occurred in Salem's drinking water reservoir last year, he said.

Risky activities should be prohibited and regulations should instead follow "ecological forestry" principles, Talberth said. "These practices are win-win solutions for landowners, workers and communities."

Opponents of the bill, including many small forestland owners, say the proposed restrictions are not only uneconomical, but unnecessary.

They point to a finding by Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality that water quality conditions are most commonly rated "excellent" and "good" in forests compared to other land types.

The agency also deter-

mined forests contained the smallest proportion of "poor" and "very poor" water quality sites compared to cities, farmland and rangeland.

"Contemporary practices protect our water," said Maryanne Reiter, a hydrologist with the Weyerhaeuser timber company.

Federal studies have confirmed that rules against pesticide drift prevent unsafe herbicides in waterways, while also indicating sediment levels remain similar before and after logging, she said.

Sedimentation is more closely related to an area's geology, rainfall and fire history than land use practices, Reiter said.

"House Bill 2656 is an unnecessary and extreme solution in search of a problem," said Mary Anne Cooper, vice president of public policy for the Oregon Farm Bureau.

By eliminating the incentive to keep lands in timber production, the proposal would threaten the conversion of forests to other uses, she said.

The prohibition against pesticides would hinder the

fight against invasive species in forests while also banning the use of common "bug spray" at camp sites, Cooper said.

A lack of management

would leave forests more vulnerable to wildfires, which in recent years have predominantly occurred on federal lands with greatly reduced timber harvest lev-

els, said Peter Sikora, CEO of the Giustina Resources timber company.

"You can't simply leave it alone. Fire will take its course," he said.

Arrest: The confusion was over which patient instigated the fight

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was complete, Baker was cleared by the board and returned to work in January. But the board chairwoman and another board member resigned in protest.

The Oregon Health Authority review was critical of the respite center staff and Baker.

Video footage of the fight showed the wrong patient was arrested. The program manager wanted to contact police and alerted Baker, who was on-call that night, but Baker initially advised her to wait until the next morning. After the program manager grew uncomfortable with the decision and reached out a second time, Baker authorized her to have police look at the video.

Baker asked the Oregon Health Authority to consider making correc-

tions to the review after the OTIS investigation. She believed — correctly — that the state would not substantiate an allegation of neglect by respite center staff.

Saerom England, a spokeswoman for the health authority, said the two processes are separate. The health authority's review looked at whether the respite center was fulfilling state licensing requirements and following state rules, while OTIS examined a specific finding of patient neglect.

"We do not plan to make any changes," England said in an email.

Baker said the agency appreciates and respects the health authority's oversight, "but we believe OTIS did a more thorough investigation."

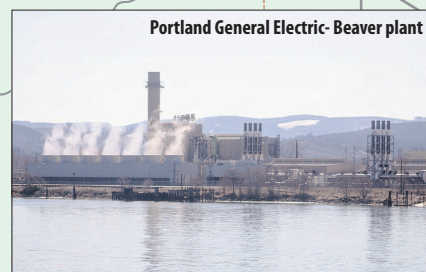
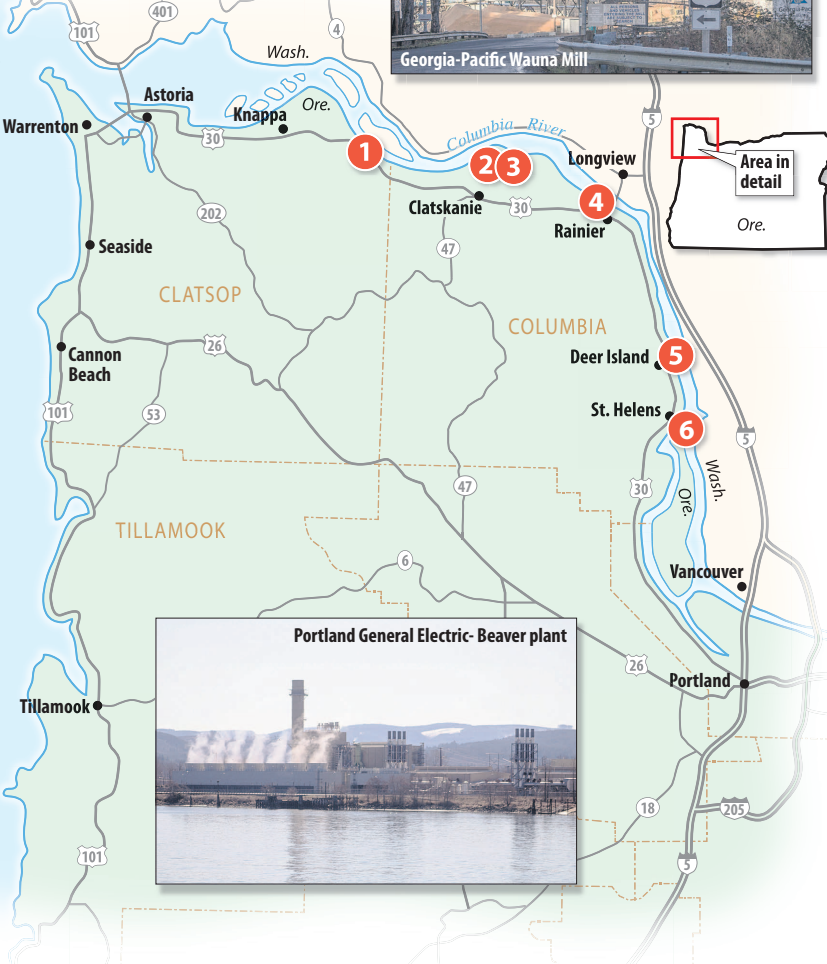
"From my perspective, the fact that staff were not

responsible for a wrongful arrest was a really important conclusion to the investigation," she said.

The confusion, the different investigations showed, was over which patient instigated the fight. The patient who was arrested was known to be aggressive and was bleeding and agitated when police arrived. The other patient involved apparently admitted to police that he was at fault, but it was not clear to police until the video footage was reviewed a few hours later.

Before it was sorted out, the patient was arrested for disorderly conduct and criminal mischief, and then arrested again for criminal trespass when he returned to the respite center after being released from county jail.

No charges were ever filed.





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