

Bill

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Sen. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario, told the Oregon Cattlemen's Association at their Dec. 1 convention in Bend that the cap-and-trade carbon bill's goal is to reduce state carbon dioxide emissions from 55 million tons per year to 10 million over 30 years, but the savings amount to only 0.125 percent of global emissions.

"This will not resolve climate issues," he said.

With Democrats holding a super-majority in the Legislature, Bentz felt sure a cap-and-trade bill will pass. On Jan. 25, he told lawmakers that his party wants to avoid economic hardships while addressing the issue of climate change.

"This bill has enormous costs caught up in it," he said. "The value of this bill is its ability to convince other people to follow Oregon's lead. And this means we have to get it right. It's not going to save the world. What saves the world is other people saying, 'Hey, Oregon figured out how to do it.'"

In a floor speech on March 4, Rep. Lynn Findley, R-Vale, called for a full exemption for the agricultural sector from HB 2020.

"When our farmers and ranchers compete within a market place with producers who do not have to deal with carbon taxes, credits or allowances, Oregon producers will always lose," he said.

Findley noted that the costs of running a farm have already significantly increased. Facing thin profit margins, farmers will not be able to handle being strapped with an additional financial burden, he said.

"We should be looking for ways to help our farming and ranching community, not place them at a disadvantage within the market place," he said. "Farmers and ranchers in Eastern Oregon are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain their operations for future generations."

In an earlier floor speech, Findley warned that carbon costs caused by the cap-and-trade carbon bill could make Ash Grove Cement in Baker County less competitive than cement plants in China, which do not operate under the environmental, safety, labor, fuel and raw material regulations that Ash Grove must follow.

"Unintended consequences of this policy will be a net increase in global emission," he said, as cement produced in China will produce much more carbon dioxide.

If the Ash Grove plant closes, Baker and Malheur counties could lose 600 jobs, Findley said. In another floor speech, Findley noted that EP Minerals might move its plant in Malheur County to Nevada to avoid carbon caps and costs, eliminating 123 jobs in one of the state's most impoverished counties.

"We must do no harm to existing business, understand the economic impacts of this law, and not destroy the ability for Oregon businesses to compete," he said. "The social and economic impacts must be considered along with appropriate science in the development of future carbon policies. Rural economies are extremely fragile and any reduction of employment diversity, such as this, is very significant."

Rent

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increase in a year under the law would be \$107.42 for that two-bedroom.

Who is exempt?

Two types of landlords have exemptions in the law.

Landlords who own rental homes that received a certificate of occupancy

15 years ago or less are not restricted by the 7 percent, plus CPI, cap. They may raise rents as much as they want until the certificate of occupancy exceeds 15 years. They still have to pay the relocation fee if they evict a tenant for no fault.

Landlords who own four or fewer rental units are not required to pay the relocation fee equal to one

month's rent when they ask a tenant to move because they want to move into the property, sell the property or make major upgrades to the property. These landlords are restricted by the rental increase cap.

How is the law enforced?

Tenants may sue their landlord in court if the landlord violates the rent cap

or evicts them at no fault for a reason other than those allowed under the law. Landlords may legally evict a tenant for no fault if the landlord plans to sell the property or their family plans to move into the property. Landlords also may evict a tenant for upgrades and renovations that cannot be done while the tenant

occupies the property.

How do landlords increase their rents to market rate, if they are behind?

Landlords have two ways to increase rents to market rate, if they are behind. One is to gradually increase rents by the limit each year. Another is to reset the rent to market rate when a tenant moves out.



The Eagle/Richard Hanners

The 1188 Brewing Company will apply for a Main Street Revitalization grant from the state to improve its storefront.

Grants

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Co-owner Shannon Adair, also a city councilor who abstained from the council decision, said that in addition to creating a better looking storefront, safety issues would be addressed by installing new windows.

City Manager Nick Green said he was told it was unlikely that a single city would receive more than \$200,000. Greg Armstrong said he would scale back the Len's Drug project if they didn't receive the grant, and Adair said the 1188 project would still get done but not as quickly.

In other city council news:

- The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has informally approved the city's plan for a new wastewater treatment plant that will produce reclaimed water, Green said.

That approval includes allowing the city to obtain a permit to discharge reclaimed water in winter, when more reclaimed water is produced than can be put to use, he said.

The city learned Feb. 28 that it was awarded a \$196,500 federal Community Development Block Grant that will pay for engi-



The Eagle/Richard Hanners

Greg and Marla Armstrong have applied for a Main Street Revitalization grant from the state to improve retail space and storefront for Len's Drug.

neering and design for the new facility. The city issued a request for bids the same day.

The council also approved a \$15,000 professional services agreement with Clean Water Services of Hillsboro to assist with water reuse planning, specifically for constructed wetlands and watershed improvements along the John Day River.

- Noting four errors, Guyer & Associates reported

in their audit for fiscal year 2018 that the city was in substantial compliance with state regulations.

The firm found over-expenditures of \$6,070 in the Water Fund and \$10,259 in the Information Technology Fund. The city also failed to keep a written record related to proposals for a police vehicle and failed to include a website address in a newspaper legal advertisement.

- In her update on event

planning, Councilor Adair advised that March 23 might be too soon for holding a street fair. She also noted that a hot rod club had shown interest in riding through the area in June.

Green told the Eagle that the Oregon Department of Transportation had not approved closing Highway 26 for the street fair and instead suggested using a side street.

- The council agreed to create a Community Devel-

opment Committee that will oversee public relations, community events and marketing and branding.

Oversight of the zoning and planning commission would be moved to the new committee from the administrative committee. Adair, Mayor Ron Lundbom and Councilor Gregg Haberly agreed to serve on the new committee.

- Tim Unterwegner was re-appointed to the zoning and planning commission.



**THE JUNIPER ARTS COUNCIL
IS SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR THE
JOHN AND LINDA SHELK COMMUNITY GRANTS**

The Juniper Arts Council is seeking grant applications from Grant County organizations for community projects that benefit Grant County communities. The JAC has \$3,000 to distribute from the Shelk Foundation for community projects. The maximum grant award is \$1,000. An example of a recent Shelk recipient: Blue Mountain Community College and Oregon State University received a grant to purchase welding safety gear sets to be used for welding classes held at Grant Union with college credit from BMCC.

Applications are available from Karin Barntish at 131 West Main Street in John Day. Further information is available from Kris Beal at 541-932-4892.

Applications are due April 5, 2019 by 5 PM.

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