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## OREGON STATE SENATOR NEWS FROM **Alan DeBoer**

Hello Friends,

We all can agree that the current status of smoke in our valley is a crisis. I almost need to say I am sorry that more wasn't done in the year and a half that I have been your Senator. Fixing this disaster needs to be one of our top priorities in this state.

During the 2017 session, we formed a bipartisan fire caucus to address the fires in our state. Since this time, we have had numerous discussions with the Oregon Department of Forestry, US Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management to better coordinate attacking the fires and accessing more resources such as the 747's that helped this year. Talks continued in the 2018 short session and we had high hopes of an easier season. Unfortunately, hope alone doesn't cut it and we now need to aggressively move to use our natural resources that our State is blessed with.

Health, jobs, tourism and our livability are at risk. I know that we will blame it on global climate change; that is certainly a factor. However, we need to manage our natural resources much better. Moving logging to better match President Clinton's plan, saving mills to allow less trucking, and providing jobs that will help our state and environment must be a top priority. We need to work aggressively to provide forest management, both replanting and thinning, so we can return to the days before what we are experiencing now.

For many years the legislature has been debating what is known as the cap and invest bill. It has been described as a \$700 million per biennium tax on the top 100 polluters in Oregon. This includes numerous public utilities. Unfortunately, cap and invest will drive up monthly energy costs for all Oregonians and create a new regulatory bureaucracy that is not necessary to reducing carbon and protecting our forests.

Instead of a cap and invest scheme, I would like to propose establishing a fair tax on carbon pollution. It would be charged to the top 25 emitters (excluding public utilities) as a pilot program. I would propose that 50% of the money from a carbon tax should go to forest restoration and management: 25% go back to the companies paying the tax in

order to incentivize them to reduce emissions; and the final 25% going to low income energy reducing programs to lower monthly costs and clean air. Everyone agrees our fires are a problem. What isn't in agreement is how to fix the problem. Cap and invest is contentious for many reasons, but a broader discussion about sunsetting a carbon tax may be a better way to solving one of the most quarrelsome arguments in Salem.

Thanks for the two-year education. I have learned much from my constituents over the last couple years. I always welcome your thoughts and phone calls. We should all understand that our planet and environment should be at the start of every decision. Just my thoughts.

Yours truly,

Senator Alan DeBoer

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