



OPINION BY SUPERVISOR CURT HAGMAN

CAP AND TRADE EXTENSION HURTS *WORKING FAMILIES* AND *OUTSOURCES LOCAL JOBS*

July 27, 2017 – The State Legislature, last week, passed an extension of California’s cap and trade program until 2030 amid great fanfare about us leading the world in reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). I’m all for cleaning up our environment, but raising the cost of products Californians use every day while at the same time driving thousands of employers out of California is not the way to prosperity. All of the celebration in Sacramento failed to mention that those hardest hit by this policy will be low income residents, who can least afford to pay more for gasoline, groceries and other consumer goods.

Here’s why – the newly passed cap and trade program sets an ever tighter limit each year on GHG (Greenhouse Gas), and requires those businesses exceeding these constantly moving targets to buy costly emissions credits from the State of California that will allow them to stay in business. How will affected businesses recoup these increased costs imposed by our legislature? The only way they can, by raising prices consumers pay for their products. Indirectly therefore, these businesses aren’t paying for this multi-billion dollar program, *you are!* Low income residents are hit hardest because they can least afford to pay more for the same products they need for their families. For the rich, what’s a few more dollars when the weather’s this good!

By making consumer prices higher in California than they are elsewhere, people are incentivized to buy things online, made somewhere else, or move to other states. Our Legislature’s decision to make it more costly to manufacture products in California than in other states or countries means that businesses, like residents, are incentivized to move to other states or countries because they are at a competitive disadvantage through having to sell California made products at a higher price than those made elsewhere. This directly relates to jobs leaving California for other states.

What about things you can’t just buy online like gasoline? Cap and trade will add 21 cents per gallon to your gas purchase and 71 cents per gallon by 2030 according to the non-partisan Legislative Analyst’s Office. Don’t be fooled, the billions of dollars raised by cap and trade for Sacramento politicians to spend on their favorite projects like Gov. Brown’s high speed train to nowhere will come from your pockets, not the big oil companies or other corporations.

This gas tax hike is on top of the 12 cent increase per gallon, plus a vehicle registration fee increase plus an electric car annual tax coming to your door on November 1, 2017 thanks to SB 1, the multi-billion dollar gas tax increase passed by the Legislature just last month. The tax increases seem endless, but the working mom filling her tank to drive to work and take her kids to school doesn’t get a pay raise to cover the higher costs. Who is looking out for her?

California’s working families need champions who will stand up to the pressure and vote to protect them, not pick their pockets. During my tenure on the city council, in the state Assembly, and as your County Supervisor, my votes have always been guided by what is best for the residents of my district in specific and Californians in general. More taxes and less jobs are not good for the people I represent and that is why I oppose cap and trade.

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