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- Take caution not to open attachments or links unless you know the sender AND were expecting the attachment or the link. The cap-and-trade program is too expensive for Washingtonians. I understand the urgency to deal with climate change, which used to be called global warming. However, I have a question that no one I have asked has been able to answer. The years between 1500 and 1700, the world experienced very cold temperatures. What did human beings do then to cause the world to get colder? Then what did human beings do in the 1700's to cause the world to warm up again. It certainly wasn't greenhouse gases. If there were no human causes to cooling the planet in how can humans cause the planet to warm? In the early 1900's, temperatures were extremely cold. What did humans do to cause the temperatures to go down? If we can't cause the temperatures to go down, how can we cause the temperatures to go up? Can you answer this for me? Thank you for the opportunity to comment on rulemaking for Washington's new cap-and-trade program. I urge you to adjust this costly new policy to help minimize the impacts on Washington families, small businesses and working people across our state. Studies estimate that this program could increase the cost to manufacture gasoline and diesel fuels by as much as 47 cents per gallon in 2023. (Cap and Trade Program Analysis, Washington Research Council, Memo on E2SSB 5126, June 6, 2022.) This is on top of record high fuel prices that consumers are already paying at the pump! Washingtonians are burdened enough right now with skyrocketing inflation and an economy that is still suffering the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Gas prices in Washington state are already some of the highest in the nation. Please consider delaying the inclusion of gasoline and diesel fuel for at least the first few years – as California's program did in order to delay the impacts on consumer fuels. Many experts believe the goals set by this program are too unrealistic. In order to meet its goals the program relies on a total ban of new gas, diesel and hybrid vehicles by 2035 – starting in 2026 with a requirement that 35% of new vehicles sold in Washington must be electric vehicles. Surveys show that a majority of Washington voters believe the state legislature needs to go back to the drawing board and revise the Cap-and-Trade program to make sure it will work as intended without placing such enormous cost burdens on Washington families and businesses. When it was first introduced, the state originally estimated that the Cap-and-Trade program would cost up to \$500 million per year – which the state would spend on a variety of climate-related programs. Recent estimates indicate that the program could now cost up to 4 times more – close to \$2 billion a year. (OFM Fiscal Note 2021, Ecology Preliminary Analysis, May 2022) Please do everything you can to reduce the costs of this new program to minimize burdens on Washington families and working people across our state. Thank you. Sincerely, Bob
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