

Douglas County Warming Coalition

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June 9, 2015

Senator Chris Edwards, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
State Capitol Bldg.
Salem, OR. 97301

Dear Senator Edwards,

The Douglas County Global Warming Coalition, representing over 400 citizens in our community, urges you to support legislation to cap and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. House Bill 3470 accomplishes this goal. Capping greenhouse gas pollution is an effective and fair way of addressing climate change. Through this market mechanism, Oregon can become a powerful example of how best to do our share to stop global warming and, at the same time, spur job creation and economic growth in a clean energy future.

Any bill must be built on the twin pillars of effectively reducing emissions while doing so fairly and equitably. This bill not only meaningfully reduces emissions in a reasonable time frame but contains mechanisms that ensure the economic well-being of our citizens. For rural communities such as Douglas County, which need to diversify their economic base, these bills will serve as an incentive for the development and use of clean energy technologies and the jobs they will bring.

Sadly, our rural communities are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In timber dependent Douglas County, droughts, diminishing snowpacks and wildfires are threatening lives and livelihoods. Insect outbreaks and diseases traced to higher temperatures are causing widespread tree die-off in the Pacific Northwest. Ocean acidification along our coast is harming shellfish and other marine life.

The situation will not get any better unless we act now. The National Climate Assessment released in May 2014 projected that during this century, the annual area burned by wildfires will quadruple to two million acres in the Pacific Northwest.

Today, we have a choice. Either we conduct business as usual with unacceptable consequences to follow, or we take responsibility and leave our children a safe climate and a healthy, vibrant, clean energy economy. We urge you to support House Bill 3470 to cap and reduce carbon pollution and protect our state and future generations.

Sincerely,

The Board of the Douglas County Global Warming Coalition

Stuart Liebowitz
Arthur Chaput

Neal Hadley
Gabe Dumm

Ruth Kaser
Polly Stirling

Dick Dolgonas
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