



April 20, 2015

Senator Christopher Edwards, Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: House Bill 3470

Dear Senator Edwards and Members of the Committee,

I write on behalf of Climate Solutions to express strong support for House Bill 3470, the Climate Stability and Justice Act. Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate practical and profitable solutions to global warming. For more than 15 years, Climate Solutions has been working to implement energy efficiency, renewable energy, and carbon reduction policies that demonstrate that clean energy and broadly shared economic prosperity go hand-in-hand. House Bill 3470 is just the sort of policy we believe in.

For the record, I note that I am a professional economist, with more than a decade of expertise, research, and publications on the subject of climate and energy policy. As an economist, I can attest that House Bill 3470 is modeled after working models in other jurisdictions in North America that have successfully reduced emissions, while continuing to grow jobs and the economy.

House Bill 3470 is the critical and necessary next step in Oregon's transition to a clean energy economy. Oregon has legislated targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but all of the data and evidence indicates that we are not on track to meeting our 2020, and 2050 goals. In order to level the playing field for clean energy policies and programs we already have in place in Oregon, and create the certainty around the pace and timing of emissions reductions that businesses need to invest in clean energy solutions, Oregon needs a comprehensive policy to limit carbon pollution.

The Climate Stability and Justice Act applies the best available science and economics in policy design to ensure that Oregon meets its existing climate pollution reduction goals and reaps the benefits of the transition to clean energy for our state. Specifically, the bill will require the state to achieve our legislatively adopted climate goals (ORS 468A.205). It will capture efficiencies in emissions reduction by consolidating Oregon's existing climate policies and expanding them into a comprehensive framework with the potential to link to regional market-based systems. It encourages Oregon to pursue the most cost-effective pollution reduction strategies. It creates the potential for a carbon market and for carbon revenues, which can be reinvested into creating good-paying, clean economy jobs and economic opportunities across Oregon. Importantly, the

bill ensures that disadvantaged communities are not disproportionately impacted and directs pollution reduction investments toward benefitting disadvantaged communities.

Climate Change is already hurting Oregon, including record-setting low snowpack, drought, and forest fires; suffering tourism, snow sports, and shellfish industries. For this reason, House Bill 3470 earns the strong and enthusiastic support of clean energy and conservation organizations across the state, as well as organizations representing low income communities and communities of color.

Importantly, House Bill 3470 also earns the support of the business community. Climate Solutions and partners organized a business letter of support for House Bill 3470 (attached). More than 50 businesses from cities across the state – Ashland, Roseburg, Coos Bay, Bend, Eugene, Portland, and others – have signed on in support. They represent manufacturing, retail, healthcare, tourism, services, clean energy, wineries, and other industries. The list includes small businesses, as well as some of Oregon’s most well-known international brands.

Climate Solutions understands that the AFL and the building trades want to make sure they have a voice at the table in the implementation of this policy. We could not agree more. We look forward to continuing these discussions with the building trades as the bill moves forward and during the critical rule making period if the bill becomes law.

Oregonians strongly support action to reduce climate change. The Climate Stability and Justice Act will affirm Oregon’s leadership in clean energy solutions. It is the right policy for Oregon at the right time.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Kristen Sheeran, Ph.D.
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