

**From:** Jack Herbert [<mailto:jharlanherb@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2015 1:49 AM  
**To:** Sen Edwards C; Reiley Beth  
**Subject:** Testimony Regarding SB 965 and HB 3470

Dear Chair Edwards and Committee Administrator Reiley,

I would like to submit this testimony to the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources regarding Carbon Cap bills SB 965 and HB 3470.

We need you to get us effective legislation **this session** to set Oregon on a path effectively to drop greenhouse gas emissions rapidly and keep dropping them, joining British Columbia, California, and others to build a movement that can sweep this country and then the planet, since the US has been the biggest obstacle to stopping global warming. Others are doing their part to start this movement, but this legislature, despite solid Democratic majorities in both houses, has betrayed the public trust to do what we need you to do. We need you to pick up the balls that the House has dropped. The peer-reviewed research is clear:

Runaway global warming will be a death sentence for us in the future, for those who continue after us, and for the natural world that gives us life worth living and sustains us. Arctic methane releases from the ocean floor and permafrost will almost certainly happen at some average global temperature rise between 2 and 6 degrees C. We are on a course to blow way past 2 degrees C with no end in sight, so that runaway warming will occur unless you join British Columbia, California, and a few others to build the movement we need rapidly to sweep the US and the planet. We need West Coast unity to drive the same reductions across North America and then the planet, as raising vehicle miles per gallon standards for all West Coast states drove the rest of the US to join. The US has been the biggest obstacle to stopping global warming.

2017 is the key year for progress to occur, so the changes must be enacted **this session**. The International Energy Agency's economic modeling showed that by 2017 the planet will have built all the carbon-fuel-using capacity that we can ever build to have any hope of holding global warming to 2 degrees C. Their or others' research predicts that to hold to that 2 degrees target, global greenhouse gas emissions must peak and fall rapidly thereafter by some date, uncertain, between 2017 and 2022.

We have waited too long, and now we are stuck. We cannot afford to have the Legislature keep failing to do what is needed **this session** to effect the stopping of carbon fuel infrastructure gains and the momentum to drive large drops in emissions by 2017.

BC and California have done their part, Minnesota and Colorado, I believe, are leading support for solar energy.

We need you to do your part, too. **This session.**

**1 Bills to Pass or to Insert into Another, like HB 3470, by Amendment**

SB 965, Cap, Auction, and Dividend, is preferable to HB 3470, Cap, Big-User Limits, and Trade, because limiting the fuel almost everyone uses via the Auction shares the burden of diminished carbon fuel available among all who use it and provides funds for individuals to pay for increased costs, as in BC, where the economy has prospered with the increased costs and dividends.

HB 3470 specifies only annually decreasing carbon fuel limits on large users of fuel, if I understand correctly, while the rest of us are allowed to emit as much carbon as we want. This will force greater reductions in carbon fuel use by the large users than a carbon cap and will provide the public with no increased funds to aid in dealing with changes. It seems sure to drive much higher costs to our economy than Cap, Auction, and Dividend will, causing failure to meet the 2020 Cap or the political will to kill the program. It calls for the Environmental Quality Commission to study other means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and to implement those they choose to implement, but requires nothing more.

HB 3470 takes too long to implement Cap and Trade, January 1, 2018, leaving only 2 years to drop greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels. We must be way over those now. The situation is so drastic that we need these decreases, but Cap, Auction, and Dividend, started much sooner, would drive the downward use we need over 3 or 4 years instead of 2.

HB 3470 tells the EQC to study other possible programs and, if they choose, to implement other programs.

The Legislature needs to tell the EQC what is needed besides Cap and Trade because the EQC has shown it lacks the will to face global warming, and that will get strong programs started ASAP instead of waiting years for studies, decisions, and too little, too late.

We need you to act boldly now! Presumably by amending HB 3470. Cap, Auction, and Dividend, SB 965, is the big driver you need to add, and there are key actions to empower other renewable energy development that will enable us to thrive.

Other programs are simpler, so we can start them promptly, and drive emissions down sooner, so we can reach the 2020 cap with less drastic change.

Please amend HB 3470 to add

- Counting the greenhouse gas emissions from products and services produced outside Oregon, just as these emissions in providing electricity from outside Oregon are counted, and adding charges raise the costs of these at least as much as costs of products and services generated in Oregon.
- Counting the greenhouse gases from agriculture, forestry, and other land and water use practices, and providing incentives to sequester carbon instead of releasing it, just as the
- Carbon Cap, Auction, and Dividend, like SB 965 or HB 3250, is the main tool you have to spread the decreases in carbon fuel use among all of us, making it feasible
- Feed in Tariff for electricity generated by electricity customers and fed into the electrical grid by any renewable alternative energy means, as HB 2745 would have done for solar generation; there is no need to exclude wind or other renewable generation.

- Community Renewable Energy projects, allowing others to contract with property owners to install and operate renewable energy generation and to share the benefits, like HB 2941, Community Solar Gardens would have done for solar generation before the House Committee on Energy and Environment gutted the original bill and turned it into a utility solar bill.
- Some provision to allow supporting pilot projects for developing kinds of renewable energy generation that are new to Oregon, as HB 2216 does for a particular proposed deep-water, off-shore wind generation project. These projects could be of great economic benefit, leading to new energy generation industries in Oregon, and benefiting local communities, like the coastal ones who need such benefits most, provided that there is good evidence that the project is feasible and those carrying it out have track records of success in such projects. We have not seen that evidence presented for HB 2216 yet.
- Kill coal generation of electricity used in Oregon by 2020, as PGE is set to do.

Oregonians need a good-jobs-rich economy, and the bills mentioned above will provide it if you pass them instead of killing them. Many people have been making this point, but you know that the federal government is too broken and owned by fossil fuel producers to act effectively.

**2 Amend SB 965, even for discussion, so that the Dividend goes to Oregon RESIDENTS, who need it to pay increased cost, NOT to Oregon Taxpayers and Dependents, who include those who reside outside the state and which excludes Oregonians too poor to pay taxes, who obviously need the Dividend more than any of the rest of us.**

This Dividend is a means to provide something to help our poorest residents, who don't pay taxes.

You struggle to find revenue for social services to such people: here is a large source of revenue, waiting for you to enact, that we need anyway to save our skins!

Avoid discriminating against and alienating our poorest voters.

It may be more convenient for Department of Revenue staff to deal only with state taxpayers.

Never mind their convenience; they should be dedicated to **meeting our real needs fairly**. Require them to do that by paying Residents only and enabling assistance to those who need it to qualify as Residents. Many of our poorest are mentally ill or too oppressed by conditions to deal alone with bureaucracy.

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