

From: John Richter [<mailto:john david richter@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2015 11:03 PM
To: Sen Dembrow; Sen Edwards C; Sen Olsen; Sen Prozanski; Sen Thomsen
Cc: Reiley Beth
Subject: In support of SB 965 --- "Cap & Dividend"/ Carbon Pricing

Dear Members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

As one of the many 20-something millennials proud to call Portland, Oregon, my adopted home, I'm saddened by the lack of conviction and resolve in addressing climate change. As a generation, millennials will have to deal not just with the unprecedented, world-scale challenges of climate change, but also the personal psychological trauma of being born into a world very different from the one we leave. Our sense of "home" is evolving rapidly over the course of our lives.

James Hansen, a scientist at NASA, first warned Congress of the dangers of climate change in the late 80s, when many of us were born. In the mid 90s, when many of us millennials were in elementary and middle school, over 1500 scientists and nobel prize winners signed a petition stating the "the threat of global warming is very real and action is needed immediately." Over the past decade, while many of us have been off studying at college, oyster farms have been closing down on the Oregon coast due to ocean acidification, wildfires and extreme weather patterns have been increasing in eastern Oregon.

Beyond the abstract enumeration of facts, we face something more personal: our collective emotional memories of "space and place" are in vertigo. Those memories of snowshoeing around Trillium Lake and of skiing in March are becoming just that: *memories*. While statistical facts may be too distant to internalize, our personal experiences reign supreme: we see and feel a world different from that when we were children or even a decade ago. I'm now 27 and no longer the babe I was when NASA scientist James Hansen first warned Congress, but we as a society are no closer to addressing climate change at its root.

It's time to be bold and change the course of history: I fully support SB965 for a cap and dividend model of pricing carbon because it addresses climate change at its source and returns all revenue to Oregonians. Oregon has a well-established history of exceptionalism—from the first "trailblazers" exploring the West to the first of many forward-thinking laws that set standards nationwide. States across the country replicated our bottle recycling bill, and they are starting to copy our new motor voter bill too. With SB965, we devise a novel path forward, where polluters pay the cost of climate change that Oregonians are already paying in the form of ocean acidification, extreme weather, and disrupted agricultural patterns. Crucially, all generated revenue is dispersed among Oregonians, allowing them to prosper and become stakeholders in a sustainable future.

I end with a quote by Thoreau:

It is something to be able to paint a particular picture, or to carve a statue, and so to make a few objects beautiful; but it is far more glorious to carve and paint the very atmosphere and medium through which we look, which morally we can do.

Let's shed the jadedness of our era and repaint the medium through which the nation looks through—let's fight climate change at its source and blaze the path to a sustainable future.

It starts with Oregon, as it always has.

Thanks,
John