



May 10, 2015, Written Testimony by Julia Olson, Our Children's Trust, in the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Good afternoon Honorable Chair Edwards and Members of the Committee. My name is Julia Olson and I am the executive director of Our Children's Trust. We are a non-profit that works with youth to secure a healthy atmosphere and stable climate. Thank you for holding this informational meeting today on the singular issue that threatens every facet of our lives, including our economy, our property, our prosperity – and frankly, the very habitability of – this great state.

I will lead off this session by addressing why this Committee should send a swift recommendation to leadership in the House Rules Committee to send HB 3470 to Ways and Means so that the bill may be voted upon by both chambers and passed this legislative session.

It has been fifty years since a key report from President Johnson warned that the rising levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere would heat our planet to such an extent that marked changes in climate, could occur and move beyond our control. The team of scientific advisors that authored the report described the “extraordinary economic and human importance of climate,” and said that even costs of [significant] magnitude “do not seem excessive” to protect the climate system.¹ This was written in 1965.

We have lost five decades of opportunity to secure the safety and prosperity of this and future generations. And we have already reached those dangerous levels of carbon dioxide.

If you look at economic costs as an indicator of distress, please consider that by 2020, climate disruption will cost Oregon \$3.3 billion per year, or nearly \$2,000 per household. If you care about our economy, you'll act now to protect the natural infrastructure that sustains it.

If you are concerned about jobs for Oregonians, you'll act now to put Oregon on the path to the inevitable jobs of the future. Carbon pricing is estimated to create 20,000 new jobs in the state.

If you care about children, their health, and safety, you'll act now to safeguard those resources every human life depends on.

If you strive for social justice in your lawmaking, you'll act now to protect poor communities and communities of color that disproportionately experience the impacts of climate destabilization.

There is no excuse not to act this session. And here is the good news. A super-majority of Oregonians and your constituents are behind you. They want you to take strong action now. You have diverse support from businesses, local governments, and civil society across the state.

¹ *Restoring the Quality of Our Environment, Report of the Environmental Pollution Panel*, President's Science Advisory Committee, The White House, (Nov. 1965).



You have support from California and British Columbia, both of which have priced carbon. You have support from the Northeastern states and other countries that have also done so. There is a tremendous opportunity here and so much to lose by squandering it.

You have other important pressing issues before you this legislative session. What is different about climate disruption is that legislative delay threatens the welfare of all future generations of Oregonians. Later generations will not have the opportunity to reverse climate change and they will be irreversibly burdened with catastrophic consequences set in motion by continued uncontrolled emissions today. By 2050, when Oregon temperatures are 5-8 degrees hotter and we have lost our snowpack, there will be no changing course. Our inaction today would lock in an unbearable heating trajectory.

You may be remembered as the last legislators of Oregon who could heed the science and lead our way to a safe climate future. There is no one else who occupies your key leadership position at this key moment in the course of history.

I speak on behalf of children and the voiceless generations to come when I ask you to avoid falling into the complacent trap of thinking that our greenhouse gas emissions are insignificant in Oregon or that what we do does here not matter globally. Indeed, we are part of a Pacific block constituting one of the largest economies on the planet. Our pollution and our leadership matters. It matters immensely. What you do this session will be a model for other states, for our federal government and for other countries. What you do this session will leave a legacy for progress or crisis.

What was true in 1965 is still true today: "The land, water, air and living things of the United States are a heritage of the whole nation. They need to be protected for the benefit of all Americans, both now and in the future. The continued strength and welfare of our nation depend on the quantity and quality of our resources and on the quality of the environment in which our people live."²

I don't say it lightly when I say this is the most important job you have this session. Thank you for your time today and for your committed service to our state, our children, and to future generations of Oregonians.

Thank you.

² *Id.*

Letter to Oregon Legislature in Support of House Bill 3470

June 10, 2015

We the undersigned businesses in Oregon support the Climate Stability and Justice Act (House Bill 3470) and urge your leadership in passing the bill.

As business leaders, we recognize a clear and present need for action on climate to protect Oregon's natural assets, its vibrant communities, and its growing economy. We can create a healthy climate and build a strong, more resilient economy by reducing greenhouse gases.

Oregon has already enacted strong, science-based targets for reducing global warming pollution, but the state is not on track for meeting those goals. The Climate Stability and Justice Act would simply enforce Oregon's existing greenhouse gas reduction goals and direct the state to implement cost-efficient, market-based programs to ensure that emissions stay below those limits.

The Climate Stability and Justice Act can level the playing field for clean energy solutions in Oregon, foster innovation and technological progress, and advance public health. It is the right opportunity for Oregon at the right time. Accordingly, we ask for your support of the Climate Stability and Justice Act.

Sincerely,

7 Devils Brewing (Coos Bay)
A to Z Wineworks (Newberg)
Abbott's Cottages (Ashland)
AirScape (Medford)
Alexander's Chimney Service (Dexter)
Alima Cosmetics (Portland)
Alkahest Moccasins & Leathercrafts (Ashland)
Arriving By Bike (Eugene)
Bamboo Sushi (Portland)
Bergsund Delaney Architecture & Planning (Eugene)
Black Dogwoods Construction LLC (Roseburg)
Cloudability (Portland)
Columbia Green Technologies (Portland)
Commonwealth Garden and Gift Shop (Canyonville)
Curtis Sides Investments (Eugene)
Data Center West (Medford)
Dexter Lake Farmers' Market, LLC (Dexter)
Down to Earth Distributors (Eugene)
Elemental Technologies (Portland)
Elephants Delicatessen (Portland)
Farmers' Union Inc. (Eugene)
FMYI (Portland)
Garden Angel (Sisters)
Green Springs Inn & Cabins (Ashland)
Greenleaf Restaurant (Ashland)
Hammer and Hand (Portland)
Hideaway Bakery (Eugene)
Hotlips Pizza (Portland)
Indigo Creek Outfitters (Ashland)

Indow Windows (Portland)
Keen (Portland)
Lieberman Construction (Winchester)
Looptworks (Portland)
MacDonald Miller Facility Solutions (Portland)
Mazzi's restaurant (Eugene)
Moda Health (Portland)
Neil Kelly Company (Portland)
Newcastle Solar (Myrtle Creek)
Orchid Thai (Bend)
Oregon Serigraphics (Roseburg)
PizzAldo's Catering (Dexter)
Promise Natural Foods and Bakery (Canyonville)
REX HILL (Newberg)
River's Edge Winery (Elkton)
SeQuential Biofuels (Eugene)
Standing Stone Brewing Company (Ashland)
Sunlight Solar Energy (Bend)
Ten Acre Arts LLC (Umpqua)
The Harvest Store (Winston)
The Joinery (Portland)
Third Ocean Inc. (Eugene)
Timberline Lodge (Government Camp)
Trillium Asset Management (Portland)
Vernier Software and Technology (Portland)
Wild Rose Vineyard (Dillard)



Support

The Climate Stability and Justice Act (HB 3470) *For Better Jobs and a Healthier Oregon*

THE PROBLEM: Oregonians are paying the costs of climate impacts, while polluting remains free and clean energy jobs under-developed

- **Climate change is already hurting Oregon**, including record-breaking forest fires and droughts, suffering tourism, snow sport, and shellfish industries, and more strange and severe storms and weather across the state.
- **These impacts tend to be distributed unequally**, with rural areas and industries, low-income communities, and communities of color experiencing them more acutely.
- **Oregon sends billions of dollars out of state every year importing fossil fuels**, while Oregon-based renewable energy resources remain untapped.
- Oregon already has strong climate pollution limits on the books, but **we're failing to meet those obligations** and missing out on important economic development opportunities.
- **Delaying action makes addressing global warming vastly more expensive.**

THE SOLUTION: Fully account for the cost of climate pollution

The Climate Stability and Justice Act ([HB 3470](#)) would ensure Oregon meets its statutory climate pollution reduction goals, hold major polluters accountable for their contribution to global warming, and accelerate the transition to clean energy in our state. The bill would:

- **Require the state to achieve its legislatively adopted climate goals** (ORS 468A.205).
- Task the Environmental Quality Commission with **consolidating Oregon's existing climate policies** into a comprehensive greenhouse gas reduction program capable of meeting them.
- Require that program to:
 - **Ensure the most cost-effective pollution reduction strategies.**
 - **Ensure that disadvantaged communities are not disproportionately impacted** and encourage pollution reduction investments that benefit disadvantaged communities.
- Allow the program flexibility to:
 - **Link to market-based systems in other jurisdictions.**
 - Potentially generate greenhouse gas revenues. Possible uses include re-investment in creating **good-paying clean energy jobs and economic opportunities across Oregon.**

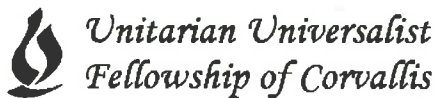
Support the Climate Stability and Justice Act Now

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

We Support the Climate Stability and Justice Act:



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON



Hair on Fire

←350PDX

←350 EUG

←350

Salem



For more information, contact:

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- Christy Splitt, Oregon League of Conservation Voters, 971-404-7279, christy@olcv.org
- Angela Crowley-Koch, Oregon Enviro. Council, 503-867-3378, angelac@oconline.org

See bill text and status at: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015R1/Measures/Overview/HB3470>