February 7, 2018

RE: Oregon League of Conservation Voters and Oregon Conservation Network Support for SB 1507 and HB 4001

Dear Chair Dembrow, Chair Helm, and Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resource and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment:

My name is Paige Spence, and I am the Director of the Oregon Conservation Network. The Oregon Conservation Network is coordinated through the Oregon League of Conservation Voters and is a coalition of nearly 40 not-for-profit organizations united to advocate for pro-conservation legislation and fighting policies that threaten our state's natural legacy.

This session, Clean Energy Jobs is not only our top priority, but our only official Priority for a Healthy Oregon.

Thank you for the opportunity to express resounding support for these two bills. Many have argued that we're not ready to move this policy forward. I want to tell you that not only are we ready, but if we wait, we are missing out on huge opportunities. Yes, this bill is critical for protecting Oregon's wildlife, fish populations, and trees, but also for the economy.

The other states who have already carbon pricing mechanisms are showing Oregon that we must pass this bill. Maine has created a Home Energy Savings Program that supports energy efficiency upgrades like weatherization and heating system improvements. In California, an electric bus manufacturer built a new factory designed to employ 100 assembly workers. The Rhode Island Department of Transportation is anticipating annual energy savings of more than $1 million each year from converting street lights to energy efficient LED lights. So far, this conversion has cost only $225,000. In New York, a study has estimated that the energy storage sector could create 43,000 new jobs by 2030.

And these are just a few examples. Clean Energy Jobs are good for Oregon. Let's pass this important legislation before we *sine die* on March 11.

Paige Spence
Oregon Conservation Director
Oregon League of Conservation Voters