Joint Committeee on Carbon Reduction

Oregon State Legislature 900 Court St. NE Salem, Oregon 97301 COUNTRY

RE:Oregon Climate Action Program (HB 2020)

Dear Senator Dembrow, Representative Power, Senator Bentz, and Representative Smith,

I am the founder, owner and Principal of Good Company – a research and consulting firm focused on managing triple bottom line performance – financial, environmental and social. We are the author's of the recent Multnomah County and City of Portland Feasibility study for a local air quality regulatory atuthority as well as the current Woodsmoke Coordinator for Oakridge, Oregon. Here is our climate change experience in Oregon:



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The strategies used for greenhouse gas reduction are also paralallel to efforts to reduce air toxics:

- Electrify combustion sources such as home heat, hot water and vehicles.
- Weatherize housing to reduce the need for heat and cooling.

We note that funding for woodstove changeouts to heat pumps and weatherization has not been approved for this session but remain optimisitic that the Oregon Climate Action Program (HB 2020) is essential not just for rural communities to become healthier, but also for them to become more resilient to climate change. Many communities from Portland, to Klamath Falls, to Prineville, to Washington County, to Oakridge need funding to support the transition of equipment towards healthier air. Note that the USEPA has designated Oakridge as one of the worst 15 airsheds in the United States!

## What's good about the bill as it stands:

• The bill holds strong on a long term reduction target of 80% below 1990 levels, as well as a critical interim target of 45% by 2035. This aligns with the Paris 2 degree C goal which we are already rapidly approaching. The 2 degree goal is known as the "guardrail temperature" due to the potential to cross it and trigger uncontrollable feedback loops that will accelerate climate change beyond humankinds control. This goal assumes that every country in the world is doing their part to reduce emissions.

## Where the bill needs to be strengthened:

- A strong program requires strong dedicated language that will produce significant emission reductions and meaningful investments for all Oregonians. This translates to few free allowances, no exemptions, and no phase in for transportation.
- A strong program needs certainty. We need explicit allocation of investments (ideally as percentages) for impacted communities. Oregonians need certainty that investments will be redirected back into carbon sequestration, low-income weatherization and renewable and energy efficiency measures.

## **Conclusion:**

- Investments in woodsmoke mitigation would mean moving away from combustion to low carbon low toxicity power and heat for rural communities. This transition will need to be made everywhere in the state, but Oakridge has it the worst.
- Passage of the Oregon Climate Action Program (HB 2020), and in particular dedicated investments for rural Oregon, is paramount to climate resiliency.

Respectfully submitted Josh Proudfoot President and Principal – Good Company