

2140 Volpp Street
West Linn, OR 97068
14 February 2019

Dear Co-Chairs Denbrow and Power and members of the committee:

My name is Gregory Smith. I'm a retired professor of education who taught at Lewis & Clark College for 23 years. I'm currently involved in a project involving eight agencies and non-profits aimed at introducing students in the Portland metro region to the city's and Multnomah County's Climate Action Plan. We hope to acquaint young people with steps local governments and others are taking to respond to climate disruption and invite their participation in this work.

A recent survey from the Yale Climate Communication project indicates that seven out of ten people in the U.S. now believe that climate change is happening—a good sign in terms of potentially mobilizing voters to address this issue. One-fifth of the population, however, also believes that human beings will do nothing to slow this process. Called climate fatalism, this growing response to our current circumstances could derail the kind of efforts needed to change course. If people believe that nothing can be done to reduce the build-up of carbon in the atmosphere, few will engage in the kinds of creative problem-solving and action required to do so. Challenging this fatalism is the responsibility of our society's leaders.

Passing HB2020 in a form that maintains the bill's integrity could send to the citizens of Oregon the message that collective action is indeed possible. Although Oregon is small, our response to this issue could model possibilities worth pursuing in other states and countries. Truly, the future of ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren is in your hands. Please guard that future well and pass this bill.

Sincerely yours,

Gregory Smith, PhD