



Testimony in support of HB 2020

February 14, 2019

Dear Co-Chairs Dembrow and Power, Co-Vice Chairs Bentz and Brock Smith and members of the Committee:

My name is Amy Wong and I am submitting testimony on behalf of two grassroots non-profit organizations, Cultivate Oregon and Our Family Farms, both of which are active in regenerative agriculture issues, including protections for Oregon's specialty seed industry, especially organic and climate and regionally-adapted seed varieties.

I strongly support HB 2020, also known as Clean Energy Jobs, which will put a cap and price on greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon and invest in solutions—including those found on Oregon farms.

The Clean Energy Jobs bill provides funding for projects that reduce and sequester greenhouse gas emissions and promote adaptation and resilience in the face of climate change. A portion of the Climate Investments Fund will be available for projects on natural and working lands, including agriculture and rangelands that: reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support carbon sequestration, or support adaptation or resiliency. These grant programs could fund practices that sequester carbon in the soil such as: regenerative agriculture, organic practices, cover crops, and compost application. The grants could also fund purchases of energy efficient equipment and renewables such as installation of more efficient irrigation, and generation of solar energy.

Climate-friendly agricultural practices can improve soil health and productivity while drawing down CO₂ from the atmosphere. The Clean Energy Jobs bill recognizes that farms are an important part of the solution to the problem of a changing climate and provides great opportunities for Oregon's farmers to take part and benefit from the program.

The Clean Energy Jobs bill provides funding for projects that reduce and sequester greenhouse gas emissions and promote adaptation and resilience in the face of climate change. Farmers may benefit in two ways:

- 1) from **grant funds** to adopt/maintain climate-friendly practices
- 2) from selling **offset credits** to regulated parties.

After decades of unsustainable subsidies for chemical-intensive monocrop systems, it is exciting that farmers who produce varied vegetable and seed crops are being given incentives to farm in ways that are regenerative and organic.

Over 200 farms and other agriculture stakeholders in Oregon have signed on in support of the Clean Energy Jobs bill. We want to see strong climate policy and that recognize that Oregon agriculture can and should be part of the solution.

Most sincerely,

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Cultivate Oregon

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