

Comment in support of HB 2020, 02/19/2019

My name is Emily Polanshek, Multnomah Village, Portland. I'm a retired public school teacher, mother of two, grandmother of two and volunteer climate solution activist.

How effective does HB 2020 need to be in reducing carbon emissions (or equivalents) and raising funds to address the needs of our most impacted communities?

Since our United States of America is a top emitter among just 7 countries that produce over half of the world's carbon emissions (along with China, which must use quite a bit of energy manufacturing cheap goods for voracious U.S. consumer habits), India, Indonesia, Russia, Brazil, and Japan), I submit that each state of the USA, including Oregon, needs to lead the world in reducing carbon emissions. Thus, how effective HB 2020 is matters a lot!

I love this planet, and passionately desire for it to remain a livable planet, don't you? I am deeply worried about the suffering and social order of our species as severe fires, storms, drought and famine drive more humans to migrate or die, aren't you? I hope those who now oppose taking steps like passage of HB 2020 will accept the evidence of human impact on our climate very soon.

I believe that building a sustainable, renewable energy-based economy presents a myriad of opportunities that can improve economic health and stimulate job growth. I believe those scientists who predict that costs will be higher if we *don't* transition away from a fossil fuel-based economy than if we do so now. I hope you share this sense of urgency. Because I do think government has a vital role to play if we are to meet this challenge with the scope and scale of changes we need, at the pace we need.

At last night's public hearing in Salem, I was deeply moved not only by the young people who spoke but also the local farmers. Perhaps a fund could be set aside to support small (non-industrial-scale) Oregon farms.

To bring HB 2020 more in line with current scientific data, some of my hopes include:

- **Go for a steeper cap:** Cap emissions at 55% of 1990 levels by 2035, to reach a 100% reduction from 1990 levels by 2050.
- **Lower** the total share of free allowances from 39% to 25%.
- **Allow no offsets.** Instead, pass separate legislation in the near future to lower emissions from the Agriculture and Forestry sectors.
- **Grant no exemptions or EITE status for new fossil fuel infrastructure** like the proposed Jordan Cove Export facility. As soon as possible, we need to ban new fossil

fuel projects in our state. If we don't, how serious are we about meeting our carbon reduction goals?

As we all know, the *reality* of the climate crisis is not a bipartisan issue. Let us take big, brisk steps towards a sustainable future while doing our best to educate and bring opposers into this effort. A livable planet will benefit us all.

Thank you so much for all your time, attention and thought to get HB 2020 across the finish line, even if it may require amending in the future.

Sincerely,

Emily Polanshek

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