



Good evening Co-Chair Dembrow, Co-Chair Power, and members of the Joint Carbon Reduction Committee.

My name is Alan Sprott. I am Vice President of Environmental Affairs for Vigor Industrial, and am also a board member of Oregon Business for Climate. Vigor owns shipbuilding and repair yards, and steel fabrication facilities in Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. We are headquartered in Oregon and employ 2,500 people. I am here today in support of HB 2020.

Addressing climate change is an issue of high importance to Oregonians. We believe this complex issue requires legislative action rather than a strategy offered through the initiative process. Accordingly, we believe it is the responsibility of the Oregon legislature to put in place a comprehensive climate strategy that embraces both good public policy and good economic policy.

We see significant economic opportunity in HB 2020 that can simultaneously enable Oregon to make a major dent in global emissions. For example, our Portland facility is constructing a wave energy device for an Irish company that will be deployed at a Navy test range off the coast of Oahu. We think we should also be building wave devices for Oregon companies that are tested off the coast of Oregon, and then shipped to Ireland and other countries to generate clean electricity.

Another quick example of the economic opportunities we see in our sector. The global maritime industry, through the International Maritime Organization, is poised to aggressively decarbonize marine transportation. The IMO has set a target of reducing global vessel carbon emissions 70 percent by 2050. Global vessel emissions currently exceed most countries, so this is a significant endeavor. To achieve this objective will require a tremendous amount of innovation, from new coating systems used to paint a ship, to the development of new marine fuels and propulsion systems. With HB 2020 in place, there is no reason that Oregon can't emerge as an innovation leader in marine transportation, as well as other sectors.

In order to recognize this vision, we think there are two critical components of HB 2020 that need to be explicit in the legislation. First, money from the investment funds should be used in part to adequately fund Oregon Universities engaged in de-carbonization research. We need to forge strong connections between our universities and industries to conduct research and innovate, and rapidly deploy promising technologies to market.

Second, the investment funds need to be used to provide capital to businesses trying to bring innovative technologies to market. If we can't help companies get to scale with new ideas, we will struggle to emerge as a leader, and miss our full potential as a green energy innovator.

I'll close by acknowledging that Oregon's emissions are small relative to the national inventory. But that doesn't mean that we don't have a significant role to play in meeting the climate challenge. By bringing new services and products to the global market that make meaningful reductions in carbon emissions, Oregon can punch far above her carbon weight. We urge your support of HB 2020.

T. Alan Sprott  
Vice President