

Dear Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction Members,

I am writing to submit testimony regarding the Clean Energy Jobs Bill. It's time for Oregon to transition from a polluting economy to a clean energy economy. The consequences of climate change are already acutely felt by residents of Oregon, from drought wreaking havoc on fish populations and agricultural productivity to the devastating wildfires that lower air quality and destroy natural resources and impact the tourism industry.

The Clean Energy Jobs Bill (HB 2020) must cap and put a price on climate pollution caused by the largest industry contributors and invest in solutions for communities across the state to grow the clean energy economy. While the bill addresses the need to reduce pollution and provide opportunities for those most impacted: tribal nations, communities of color, low income and rural communities, the language must be clear about actual amounts that will be allocated to ensure this is appropriately enforced. Environmental justice policy has a long history of have weak regulatory power. It's time for Oregon to take the lead in climate change action in the US to ensure not only current environmental and economic resilience, but to strengthen our infrastructure and investments for the future.

California Senator Feinstein caused an uproar just a few days ago by attempting to silence the wisdom and moral authority of young people regarding climate change policy. We are not idealistic. We are not naive. In truth, we are the ones most prepared and committed to make realistic choices about the future of our climate. This task is not easy, but it must begin NOW. We need our lawmakers to lead the way and ensure that the Clean Energy Jobs Bill gets passed. To strengthen the effectiveness of this bill, the cap should be lowered to ensure that greenhouse gas emissions from those under the cap reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050, as recommended by recent IPCC reports. The free allowances in the first year of the program should be reduced from 100% to 50%, and municipal solid waste incineration should not receive an exemption. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Erin Kanzig
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