My name is Claire,

I'm a student at Willamette University and a fellow with Our Climate, a nonprofit focused on mobilizing the generations most impacted by climate change to advocate for a science-based, equitable price on pollution.

As a young person I'm thrilled to see Oregon's legislature putting forward a solution. But I believe if we are going to become climate leaders in the country, we need to do it right. That's why I'm asking for a few changes to make sure this policy is as strong as possible to protect my future and generations to follow.

In the bill there must be a specific percentage of investments in impacted communities, as well as a more transparent process that will tie reduction of pollution directly to the use of funds in communities most affected by pollution. This is a priority because we know that low income communities of color feel the brunt of carbon pollution and energy cost first, we know that climate refugees need a home here in OR, and we know that rural coastal communities need infrastructure support.

Furthermore incineration of municipal solid waste should not receive an exemption in the Clean Energy Jobs bill. Solid waste incineration is a harmful pollutant and not something we should rely on to combat the climate crisis.

Voters under 25 are officially the largest eligible voting demographic, and we will use our voting power to ensure that we only elect the strongest climate champions to office. We believe this bill is a step in the right direction, but that it does not go far enough. Thank you for your time in working with young people to make this bill the strong legislation we need.

Claire Mathews-Lingen

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