

Dear Co-chairs Dembrow and Power and members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction,

My name is Richard Schwartz, and I am a small business owner who lives and works in Portland. I am writing today to voice my support for HB 2020, the Clean Energy Jobs bill. An independent economic study presented to the legislature in 2019 shows HB 2020 will benefit our economy. It will add to household income across all tax brackets, with the most going to low-income households because it will create thousands of good-paying jobs and the transition to cleaner energy will lower costs for people and businesses. I especially appreciate the fact that the bill guarantees 2.2 million metric tons of pollution will be reduced every two years, which will help the environment and the health of all Oregonians, especially those most vulnerable to respiratory disorders.

I have been concerned about climate change for almost two decades now, and I am dismayed at how little has been accomplished in that time. But lamenting about actions not taken does not bring us any closer to a solution. The Clean Energy Jobs bill has the capacity to make a real impact on reducing carbon emissions and getting at the root causes of climate change while having a positive impact on the economy. I strongly urge you to once again make Oregon an environmental leader, combating climate change and developing clean energy alternatives for the 21st century and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration.

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