

## Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction

RE: Written testimony in support of HB 2020

I support the passage of HB 2020, the Clean energy Jobs Bill. It is my opinion that this bill, if enacted, will be a benefit to both our economy and the climate. In respect to Oregon's economy. It puts a cap on carbon pollution while creating jobs and opportunities in the clean energy economic sector allowing us to reap the benefits of a clean, fossil free, economy in Oregon's near future. It will propel Oregon into a green renewable energy future and position our state to be competitive nationally as an economic leader in the 21st century.

In respect to climate change this bill, by putting a cap on greenhouse gas emissions, has a goal of a 45% reduction from 1990 levels by 2035. This might be adequate but science indicates a 55% reduction by 2035 and 100% by 2050 is necessary.

As Oregonians living in the Eastern Columbia River Gorge our winters and early springs have become generally unpredictable, but more frequently wet with summer and fall fire seasons that are extended with warmer and dryer conditions which lead to forests that are less resilient and more vulnerable to increasingly destructive fire storms creating unhealthy smoke pollution in our air shed that lingers for months.

My wife and I are grandparents to three grandchildren who are more likely to experience first hand the harsh effects of climate change if we do not act now to reduce CO2 emissions. In the past 10 years we have experienced in our region of this state, an increasing frequency of fires caused in part by a changing climate that have negatively effected our economy, our health, and our safety. In the fall of 2009 we experienced the Mosier Fire which burnt along the Historic Highway Trail between Mosier and Hood River, nearly threatening to destroy the entire town of Mosier. In 2013 we had the Blackburn fire, caused by a lightening strikes which started a fire near The Dalles watershed between the north and south forks of Mill Creek and spread to threaten our water treatment plant and half the water supply to the City of The Dalles. This fire caused smoke pollution that lasted many weeks and effected all the citizens in our region. It burnt from The Dalles to the boundaries of Hook River County. In August, 2014 we had the Rowena Fire which burn all along I84 from Rowena and spread east to The Dalles and west to Rowena Crest and the Tom McCall Overlook. In the fall of 2017 we had the Eagle Creek fire, one of the most destructive fires ever in the Columbia River Gorge. The result of both man made and environmental conditions it burnt 48,861 acres and cost 22 million dollars to extinguish. In 2018 our most recent fire started in the dry wheat fields on the eastern city limits of The Dalles and spread east to Sherman County and south along the Deschutes River Canyon towards Maupin and west towards Dufur and Tygh Valley. That fire destroyed much of the wheat crops of local farmers and destroyed cropland, structures, and took a life. I have not even mentioned all the Washington fires that burnt in our region at the same time adding to the summer/fall unhealthy smoke pollution we suffered under with increasing frequency over many consecutive seasons.

We have an urgent need to pass HB 2020. It is not a perfect solution for reducing carbon emissions, but is the best effort we have made to date, and can be improved in future years. We need to act now. If we do not, we face having to live on a planet far less suitable for human habitation and for all living organisms on Earth. We are all interconnected and dependent on this planet's living systems. It's all we have. We owe it to future generations to take action now.

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