

To Co-Chairs Dembrow and Power and Members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction:

I urge you to support HB 2020, the clean energy jobs bill. This issue is urgent and important. Passage of this bill will help Oregon's economy throughout the state. Clean energy jobs are helping people make a good living throughout Oregon already. We have thousands employed in solar, wind, energy efficiency and more. I have met many people who work in these fields and in addition to the basic satisfaction that people have when they are working, clean energy jobs give people the meaningful knowledge that their work is making a positive impact. I think this sense of optimism has permeated many places in Oregon and the more we can expand that, the more the state will continue to thrive.

We have the ability to guide our own fates; we are not resigned to let disaster come upon us. We must stop using fossil fuels to help ourselves, our children and grandchildren, to preserve for them the opportunity to live in a temperate climate. We must stop using fossil fuels so that we can keep our cherished life in Oregon. We are not alone; many others around the world are working to the same end. Our work here can influence those in other states.

In Lake Oswego, we have 830 people who have joined the Lake Oswego Sustainability Network (I am a founder) who are engaged in sustainability practises; who have worked on a local climate action plan, who work at the schools, religious congregations, businesses and in local government to reduce our carbon footprint. Our efforts here are supported by your work to reduce the state's carbon footprint.

The nay-sayers have been using the same tired and false arguments for years: that moving to clean energy will harm Oregonians. They made the same arguments in 2007, when the legislature wisely passed the first renewable energy standard. Despite the dire warnings, Oregon's economy has thrived with each effort we make to reach our carbon goals.

Please take this historic opportunity.

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