2019 HB2020 Oregon's Climate Action Program, Springfield - 2/22/19
Artemio Paz Jr., Former Chairman SBOE

I'm here because I believe HB2020 is critical to Oregon's reduction of GHG emissions that will help to avoid catastrophic outcomes of climate change. While I support HB2020, I believe it's not adequate in its consideration of 1) Oregon's classroom climate science standards, and 2), carbon sequestration on private forestlands.

First, in 2014, Oregon Department of Education adopted Next Generation Science Standards. Currently, the standards lack ecosystem integration of climate science, and do not recognize climate intergenerational wisdom, climate risk or climate timeline urgency. The standards do not identify critical knowledge nor the discretionary skills Oregon students will need to develop literacy competence in carbon mitigation or climate adaptation. Oregon's next generation science teachers should expect HB2020 to articulate a comprehensive climate strategy anchored in current climate science knowledge that prioritizes carbon reduction and preservation of sustainable ecosystems in accordance with the Fourth Oregon Climate Assessment Report and the 2018 Biennial Report by the Oregon Global Warming Commission. Oregon K-14 students need foundational climate science literacy that enhances strategic climate knowledge and sustains ecosystem and cultural wellbeing, beyond hollow aspirational declarations.

Secondly, mitigation strategies of forestry activities on GHG emissions have been extremely limited in the Pacific Northwest in areas of "ecosystem process-based integration of climate change and CO2 enhancement." Ten million acres, of Oregon's 30m acres of forestland, are privately owned. Fifty percent of those private lands are in third-party certification programs of longterm sustainability (FSC – 193K acres, SFI – 4.1M acres, ATFS – 745K acres). While there are "proven strategies immediately available to mitigate carbon emissions from forest activities, Oregon forest policy has not explored increased carbon density in existing forest." Improved forestland carbon ecosystems could benefit "through lengthened harvest cycles (45y to 80-125 y) with additional value-added long term benefits of watershed and biodiversity enhancements. Only clear and unambiguous commitments to market incentives and restructured forestry policies will translate into carbon dense forestry on Oregon's private forestlands.