

Hello, my name is Katherine Heller. I am a mother of three children in Eugene. I am also a military wife of an army officer.

As a mother of children who will inherit the climate, environment, security environment, and economy that we are building for them in everything we do and do not do, there is no other option but to create a strong effective clean energy jobs program and to immediately stop the building of all new fossil fuel projects. This of course includes 'natural gas' as of course, as the moniker itself is a greenwash. The fuel and infrastructure is not even safe, the price on our water table and atmosphere is astronomical, and it is a myopic economic investment. Clearly, renewable energy technologies are faster growing and becoming less expensive than the fossil energies they are already replacing.

What jobs will our children have when they graduate? Will Springfield and Eugene be on fire, as our neighbors just to the south of us were this past November? Will our children be able to raise their own families?

I've heard that ethics is described as doing what is right for the children. Passing a strong uncompromising energy jobs bill is the right thing to do for the children. It is the ethical thing to do.

As a wife of an army officer, I can tell you that I follow our national security and foreign policy news in detail. I am intimately invested in it. My husband has been deployed and may be again. You could say I have skin in the game. From this perspective, please hear me: Energy is integral to our foreign policy and security.

The pentagon has even named climate change as a dire threat to our security as a nation. Climate change events threatens bases and troops in this country and around the world, as well as leading to civil unrest, mass immigration, and increasing wars over valuable resources such as water, food, and fossil fuel - some of which we are seeing now.

My family is proud to serve our country and its citizens. We are proud of our scientifically advanced nation that has at its availability the technologies to lead the world into the next chapter of civilization. Our nation has the answers we need. We only need to do it. I can think of no better way to support our national security and our dedicated, loyal, and often selfless soldiers than to invest in local clean energy jobs. Passing a strong and effective clean energy jobs bill is one the most patriotic and security - responsible acts this state can do.

I am speaking out for a strong effective and proactive Clean Energy Jobs Bill that will result in:

The immediate, bold action that is needed. We have to take bold action during the next 12 years to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, according to the recent climate reports. The current goals in HB2020 are far below what the world's best scientists say is necessary.

Significant investment for communities like ours that are most impacted by climate change to transition to renewable energy and greater energy efficiency and prepare for the climate change impacts. This should be paid for by the largest polluters.

No carve outs for the largest polluters. This means no offsets, no exemptions, and no free allowances.

Our community needs a community oversight committee to hold the board accountable to the law's promises and goals.

Second, the Clean Energy Jobs Act must ensure that there will be no new fossil fuel infrastructure built in Oregon, such as the Jordan Cove fracked gas pipeline and LNG export terminal. We cannot

make progress if corporate special interests behind Jordan Cove are allowed to build the largest source of climate pollution in the state.

Third, we can't stop at a strong Clean Energy Jobs Act worthy of the name. We also need an Oregon Green New Deal, supported by grassroots groups throughout the state, that will create new jobs in renewable energy, lower energy costs, prepare our communities for the impacts of climate change, promote sustainable farms and forests, strengthen our public transportation systems, and more.

We must do the economic, secure, caring, and right thing. Yes, transitions are difficult. You don't have to tell that to an army wife. But again and again, it is always the right thing to do, not the easy thing to do, that pays off for our communities, for our children, for our state, and for our country.

We must pass a strong uncompromised HB 2020.

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Thank you,

Katherine Heller

Eugene, OR

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