

Co-Chair Dembrow, Co-Chair Power, Vice Chair Bentz, Vice Chair Brock Smith and members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction.

I have been listening to testimony and feel a need to confront some of the concerns and fears I hear. I also want to say that I appreciate your consideration of all testimony and the fortitude shown as you listen to citizen concerns about climate change and about the possibility of fuel price increases and loss of jobs. I think the evidence shows these fears are unfounded.

Transitions are difficult. None of us can have certainty about the future and the impact of our decisions. That's why we say, 'in hindsight', or 'that's an unintended consequence'. I urge you to take to heart the experience of California, Quebec, the European Union, and the REGGI States. Trust that their experience will be Oregon's experience. The price of inaction, of being too cautious is too high a price. Better to set an aspirational goal and strong measures and pull back later than to weaken and compromise this bill and have to ask for a 're-do'. The lost opportunity costs mount daily.

Here is some of what we know from the experience of similar programs to reduce pollutions, cap emissions and invest in a new ways of managing our environment and products.

**Ban on DDT** - the opposition told us that pests would take over crops and there would be worldwide famine. We banned DDT and now our national bird, the majestic Bald Eagle, has recovered. Condors and other species too but they are not as symbolic. We are eating well. The famine in the world is due to distribution issues not scarcity of food.

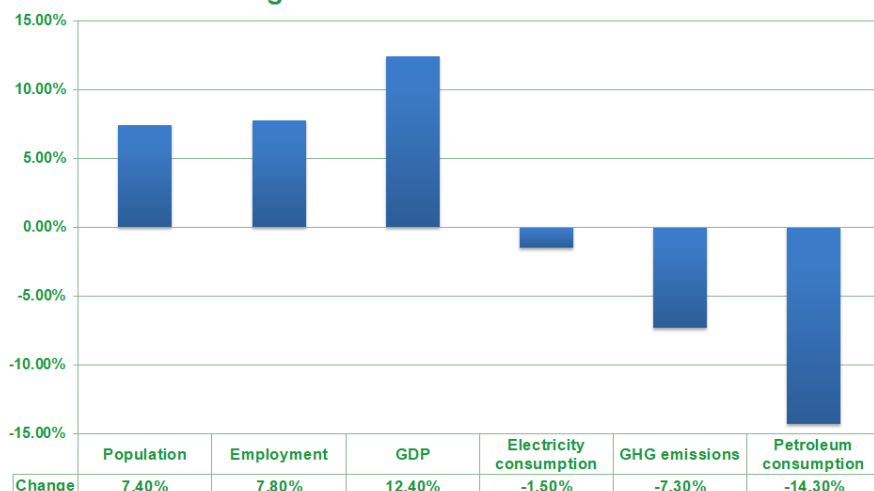
**Cap and trade on sulphur emissions** - instituted by a Republican President we were certain this would not stop the acid rain and yet it did. Forests that had been killed by acid rain were restored. The industries did not come to economic ruin by putting in 'scrubbers' to clean up their emissions.

**Plugging the hole in the ozone** - the international effort to shrink the hole in the ozone required a global ban on chlorofluorocarbons (CFC), a common propellant in spray cans that were also used as refrigerants, solvents, and foam-blowing agents. The [EPA reports](#) that in 1980 only a few thought that substitutes could be found for the CFCs. But in fact we created alternatives and the ozone layer has been stable since 1998 and appears to be recovering. Reducing hydrofluorocarbons will continue this repair to the ozone and reduce greenhouse effects. Don't give up your sun screen and be certain that we can continue to make progress in this area.

**Now we reduce CO<sub>2</sub>e in the atmosphere** - the opposition says that fuel prices will increase and companies and farms will go out of business but it's not true.

In California the population, employment, and GDP have increased while electricity and petroleum consumption have decreased as have greenhouse gas emissions.

**Changes Since AB32 Enacted in 2006**



The nine Northeast States that put a cap on emission in their utility sector in 2009 have experienced a 40% decrease in carbon pollution, a 3% decrease in electricity prices (in part due to lowered consumption due to energy efficiency) and a 25% increase in their overall economy.

The projections for Oregon, when we pass HB2020 to cap emissions and invest in our economy, are also very positive. The [Berkeley Economic Advisory and Research](#) estimates this bill will create 50,000 full time jobs by 2050 and add 2.5% to Oregon's GDP (above anticipated GDP). All households in all tax brackets will benefit. Rural communities will benefit from investments in natural and working lands to sequester carbon, from programs to promote regenerative agriculture and improved irrigation systems, and weatherization and energy efficiency through their utility providers. We also expect to fund electric charging stations to make EV ownership a statewide option no matter the miles driven.

And yet people ask, 'what about the price of gasoline?' Here's an interesting graph that shows the prices of gas since May of 2009. You can see that the price has been at a low of \$1.59 to a high of \$4.10 per gallon and that was in 2009 alone. The price is influenced by so many factors that it will be impossible to know for certain if any increase is due to a cap on CO2e emissions. We know the naysayers will tell us it is. Given the wide range of fluctuation how do they know? Even if gas were go up 16 cents a gallon wouldn't you rather pay a dollar and ninety cents more to fill up knowing that those 190 pennies are going for cleaner air and a better future? I will.



We know we must act on climate change and reduce CO2e emissions. The future, if we do nothing, is bleak. We know we can do it because others have not only reduced emissions but prospered. We have energy alternatives in solar, wave, wind and geothermal. This creates thousands of job opportunities. If we do this now, ahead of most other states, we will also have know how and new technology to export. We just need the will to confront our fears and take a chance on change. I believe the positive economic projections are true. Let's just do it together.

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