

**Subject line: Business support for HB 2020 3.1.19**

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction,

I am writing to voice **strong support for HB 2020**, also known as the Clean Energy Jobs bill. My name is Amy Berg Pickett, I live in Madras, Jefferson County, OR and I am a Sr. Community Engagement & Permitting Manager for grid connected ground mounted photovoltaic power generating facilities, also known as solar farms. Cypress Creek Renewables has been active in Oregon and developed and constructed about 130 megawatts of solar energy that is part of the energy mix in Oregon.

As an Oregon resident and business professional, I want to stress the economic opportunity presented by HB 2020. HB 2020 will create a Cap-and-Invest program that will send the right market signals to drive investment and job growth across the state.

Solar energy has a few major obstacles in Oregon and HB2020 would alleviate some of these obstacles. Projects will be sited in neighboring states if we do not remove some of the roadblocks to development.

The passing of the bill would provide strong policy and educational opportunities for all of Oregon's residents, which is needed to allow for meaningful participation in land use permitting. Currently there are misconceptions about what renewable energy projects are, how they fit into the landscape, and the benefits to current and future generations. HB2020 would move this conversation forward in a powerful way as Oregon shapes it's carbon fee economy.

Solar farm development and construction employs locals with good paying jobs. Counties ask us about local jobs when we are seeking permits for the projects. If the expertise is available we can hire locally, electricians and civil contractors are typically always locally sourced. Colleagues from other states like NC, and CA do have to be imported to fulfill some of the expertise. Funding for the offsets can go towards educating a workforce in Oregon to support the green economy jobs. Oregon is host to only a few degree and training programs at this time and HB2020 could support additional programs.

Transmission constraints limit the amount of renewable energy that can be added to the local grid across Oregon. There is discussion about allocating some offsets funding towards improvements to Oregon's infrastructure.

Land Use is a significant constraint on Solar Siting in Oregon, with the passing of HB2020 again we will have the opportunity to educate decision makers and form coalitions to addressing a strong green economy balanced with other priorities in the State.

Thanks in part to smart policies like the Clean Fuels Program, Oregon is already home to more than 55,000 clean energy jobs, according to [E2's 2018 Clean Jobs Oregon report](#). And that economic development is [benefiting the entire state](#), with more than 11,000 rural Oregonians

employed in the clean energy economy. See page four of the report to see a testimonial about one of my Cypress Creek Renewables colleagues.

**The Clean Energy Jobs bill would send a clear, long-term signal to investors that Oregon's clean energy market is poised for further expansion** and give Oregon a competitive advantage to capture the rising tide of investments and businesses ready to put Oregonians to work in clean energy. As experience in other jurisdictions has shown, the benefits of a Cap-and-Invest program **extend beyond the cleantech sector and can create revenue streams and provide resources to Oregon's farmers, foresters, and ranchers. It is because of these economic opportunities that** [84 Oregon business leaders and investors signed a letter in support of HB 2020.](#)

A recent economic analysis commissioned by the Governor's office further demonstrates HB 2020's economic promise – it found that passage of the bill would lead to around 50,000 new jobs in Oregon, a 2.5% growth in Oregon's real GDP, and an increase in Oregonians' household income across all tax brackets, with the most going to low-income households.

And while the economic opportunities are great, the consequences of inaction are devastating. If we fail to mitigate our greenhouse gas emissions, climate change will exact enormous costs to Oregon's people, environment, and economy.

To maximize the benefits to Oregonians, the legislature must pass a strong bill that enables linkage to the Western Climate Initiative which at a minimum means adopting a declining cap on par with California's 2030 requirement that emissions fall at least 40 percent below 1990 levels.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. As an Oregon business leader, I urge you to pass HB 2020 and create the strongest Cap-and-Invest program possible.

In addition, we encourage the following

- Current bill language setting a midterm greenhouse gas reduction target must remain.
- Current bill language including transportation fuels under the cap from day one must remain.
- Oregon's successful Clean Fuels Program cannot be weakened or eliminated in exchange for passage of Cap-and-Invest.

Signed,

Amy I Berg Pickett