

Co-chairs Dembrow, Power, and Members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction:

I am submitting my voice as a lay person and senior citizen in passionate support of HB 2020 because I have personally seen the degradation of our planet in the past several decades, listened to the consensus of the world's scientists and their predictions of the accelerating trajectory of current and impending crises, and most importantly, watched in utter dismay as our political leaders have year after year sat on their hands and quibbled over what baby steps might or might not be taken in response. This bill provides hope and relief that our state's leaders may finally be taking way overdue heed, by adopting policies that are meaningful and significant to address our crisis.

I was appalled by Rep. Brock's argument that because Oregon contributes an insignificant fraction of the world's carbon, there is no justification for broad-sweeping statewide policy to mitigate our production of pollution. I suppose as a consumer of only one seven-billionth of the world's resources (and I'm aware that as an American consumer this is a gross underestimation) I bear no responsibility for any of my actions or impacts, nor does any other earthling. Such a rationale is folly and reflects the desperation of this bill's opponents to articulate a viable argument against it.

The bill is in and of itself not perfect, for me, not doing enough; in the view of others it no doubt goes too far; please do not let the desire for the perfect undermine attainment of the good. There will be costs, but clearly the cost of doing nothing is far greater. After decades of wanton destruction we should not expect to be able to mitigate our problem without significant sacrifice or investment. Nonetheless, the content of this bill is carefully constructed to target only the largest emitters of pollution while creating a far greater economic upside for Oregonians, directing resulting funds towards job creation and training, energy savings for low-income families, and infrastructure improvements, from weatherization to transportation and irrigation modernization. Similar efforts by other states have proven that it can be successfully done. I urge swift passage and look forward to an implementation that will help to lead the way in mitigating our shamefully negligent national response.

Respectfully,

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