

Our children, and grandchildren, and all future generations will be directly affected by the choices that we make today. We have a mere 10 years to decide whether their future is as a dystopia or as some equivalent of the life we live today. HB 2020 is just the beginning of a raft of legislation that will be needed to meet the climate challenges ahead. We can no longer afford to hold our lifestyles closely and avert our eyes from what lies in front of us.

But what can “little” Oregon do? We can do as we did in the 1960's and 1970's -- lead. It was little Oregon that passed the first bottle bill in the country. It was little Oregon that set a standard for urban development and planning that became a model for the rest of the country. What we do here has and will continue to make a difference. Small by US standards, Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions are still larger than 90 other countries, many of which are existentially threatened by climate change and ocean rise and certainly do not feel that what we do today is such small potatoes.

You as legislators face a great responsibility. You must not only represent the beliefs of your constituents, you must also help them to understand the depths of the emergency that we're dealing with and help guide us through it.

We can either throw up our hands and let the fossil fuel companies decide our future or we can encourage and fund the emerging technologies that will solve the crisis and provide a strong and just economic future for all Oregonians.

Yes on HB 2020, yes on a moratorium on new fossil fuel infrastructure, yes on funding the Electric Highway.

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