

Dear Co-Chairs Dembrow and Power and other members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction:

Among friends and family here in Central Oregon, we have been vigorously discussing the need for bolder action at every level--local, state, federal and international--to address climate change. While we search for actions we can take in our own lives, our homes and work places, we think government action is also critical. We have concluded that HB 2020 is precisely the vehicle we need right now to allow Oregon to take rapid, efficient and meaningful action to confront the complex and increasingly serious crisis of climate change.

There are several things that especially recommend this bill, and the approach it provides:

--It is comprehensive.

--It combines a proven mechanism for reducing carbon emissions with significant investment in the state's economy, helping grow or expand economic sectors that further contribute to carbon reductions. We have been very impressed, and encouraged, by the success that other states have had with this mechanism.

--It does not re-invent the wheel in terms of administering the carbon reduction strategy, relying on an established mechanism, and provides for public input to guide the investment part of the equation.

While we wait for renewed national and international action to address climate change, it is absolutely critical that local and state governments act in meaningful ways. These local and state strategies not only provide valuable incremental benefits in carbon reductions, they also demonstrate to the federal government and to the world that there is a constituency--a growing constituency--to address this crisis.

I strongly urge passage of HB 2020.

Thanks for your work on this, all the best,

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