

To Co-Chairs Dembrow and Power, and members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction:

My name is Gigi Meyer and I own Windflower Farm LLC. Since 2006, my crew and I have grown vegetables, fruit, herbs, flowers, dairy goats, and laying hens on 20 acres in the township of Alfalfa, 15 miles East of Bend.

Markets for our produce include local chefs, our local food distributor, and direct sales to consumers via our CSAs and Bend Farmer's Markets.

HB 2020 will benefit Oregon's economy. An independent study presented to the legislature in 2019 showed that the Clean Energy Jobs Bill will add to household income across all tax brackets and will improve the economic outlook for our struggling rural communities. Climate change is a serious threat to agriculture and to food security in Oregon. With HB 2020, Oregon is poised to take the lead and reap the rewards of a clean energy economy.

Here are some challenges that I and my fellow Central Oregon farmers currently face that are directly related to climate change; challenges that HB 2020, if passed, will help to alleviate.

*Hotter days and weather extremes are hard on plants, making growing more difficult and crop failure more likely.

- Smoke from forest fires inhibits solar transmission to plants and creates an unhealthy work environment. My crew and I had to wear respirators to harvest vegetables during a particularly smoky week 2 seasons ago.

- We depend on our mountains and rivers to supply us with a reliable water source to grow food for our community. In spite of the most welcome and unusual snowfall of the past week, the long term trend has been unequivocally towards drought. Last fall we were faced with draw downs in our irrigation flows in the late season to mitigate the drought effects.

- Climate refugees are arriving and stressing our infrastructure and resources. Southern populations are heading north, creating housing crises, uncontrolled urban and suburban sprawl, pressures to develop farmland, and creating competition for dwindling water supplies. Increasing land values are pushing farmers out.

- There is a looming disaster for future generations if food farming becomes more difficult or impossible. No Farms, No Food.

* We need to urgently address Climate Change with legislation that takes steps to restore and protect our earth, our agriculture, and our natural resources for future generations.

I urge you all to vote for HB 2020 to create good-paying, clean energy jobs, and move us towards a goal of long-term economic and environmental sustainability. Thanks to all of you who are working hard to insure a more livable planet and more promising future for the coming generations.

Gigi Meyer
Windflower Farm
26285 Walker Rd.
Bend, OR 97701
541.678.3166

www.windflowerfarmbend.com