

February 28, 2019

Dear Oregon Legislature,

The City of Ashland has taken significant steps over the past five years to better understand and address the climate crisis. We have developed our Climate and Energy Action Plan with aggressive greenhouse gas emissions targets for city operations and the larger community, hired a full-time coordinator to help implement that plan, and passed an ordinance to ensure that the full weight of local government is brought to bear on this urgent challenge.

While local government action is a necessary part of the larger climate solution, it is not adequate by itself. Urgent action must be taken at the state and federal level as well if we are to meet the International Panel on Climate Change's warning that we must reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% over 2010 levels by 2030 in order to avoid catastrophic impacts to our communities, economies, and natural systems.

It is because of this urgent need for action that I am so pleased to see leadership coming from the Oregon Legislature in the form of HB 2020. As you finalize this legislation and work for its passage, I ask that you consider the following:

- Many Oregonians are struggling with affording basic necessities, so please design the legislation in such a way that it is mindful of that reality and limits negative impacts to those people as much as possible;
- The legislation must be science based so that its impact in terms of reduced greenhouse gas emissions is sized appropriately in relation to the size of the problem; and
- Exemptions for certain industries should be allowed only if it can be shown that those exemptions do not hinder the legislation's ability to do what is needed in Oregon given the current warnings from the scientific community;

Our current situation demands action and investment at all levels of our society. Here in Ashland, we are doing our best to address the part of the climate crisis that is our responsibility. I am hopeful that soon we will have a partner in the Oregon Legislature as our elected representatives show the leadership necessary to address our state's share of the climate crisis and protect the future for Oregon's children.

Sincerely,



John Stromberg
Mayor

