

Dear Co-chairs Dembrow and Power and members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction,

My name is Michelle Hynes, one of your constituents in Portland. I am writing to urge you to pass a strong version of HB 2020, the Clean Energy Jobs bill. I understand that there is significant pressure from industry to weaken the bill. For the good of our region and our state, I urge you to resist that pressure. Please include the provisions from the 2018 bill that direct how the Climate Investment Fund should be allocated in order to ensure that rural, tribal, low-income and communities of color are prioritized for investment.

The Clean Energy Jobs bill is an exciting opportunity for Oregon to establish a leadership role in spurring innovation to transition to a green economy. I'm truly excited by the investments this bill will make to support rural and low-income weatherization projects, innovative irrigation and forestry practices, and vehicle electrification. As the independent economic analysis by Berkeley Economic Advising and Research has concluded, HB 2020 will add 2.5% to Oregon's GDP and generate 50,000 jobs. This was also supported by a previous PSU study. We know that cap and invest initiatives can produce strong economic growth, as has been demonstrated by the 10 states and province of Quebec that have already entered the interstate compact.

We can't afford to wait. Climate change is real; we're seeing it in the fires that have devastated parts of our state and the extremes of hot and cold that are getting worse over just the ten years since I moved to Oregon. Plants that once thrived in my garden are dying – frozen in the winter, burned in the summer. In just the past few years we've had to remove and replace three trees on our small urban lot, and we're seeing the replacements fail to thrive. Oregon is a place that has always prided ourselves, and thrived, based on our natural resources. It's urgent that we protect them now and for the future.

We cannot leave the consequences of pollution to the next generation under the pressure of profit for a few. We have a model for responsible economy-wide cap and invest legislation that will position Oregon as an economic leader while managing the transition in equitable and responsible ways to help ensure that businesses and communities are not harmed in the change. Let's be the Oregon that we always claim to be. Let's remember the courage and bold vision of Tom McCall. Let's pass a strong Clean Energy Jobs bill, this session. The time is now.

With thanks and hope,

Michelle Hynes

NE Portland