

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

I'm Rebecca Peterson, a mother of 3 young girls and small business owner (w/ my husband) here in Bend. As now is the time to act in order to make sure we do indeed have a livable planet, and not one constantly riddled with deadly forest fires, food shortages, and toxic air, please support HB 2020.

This bill is a benefit to both our economy and climate. For the economy, if the bill is passed I know many are worried about rising fuel prices. However, once transitioned to cleaner energy, people's and businesses energy costs will actually decrease, according to an economic study. For the climate, the declining cap guarantees a reduction of around 2 million metric tons of pollution every year, the equivalent of taking 425,000 cars off the road.

For those states that already have cap-and-invest programs, rather than floundering economies, all of them have GROWING economies, falling CO2 emissions, stable energy prices, and thousands of jobs created.

Having lived in Bend for 3 years, and moving from Northern California, I've seen a real, dramatic, frightening threat from wildfires, which have been increasing significantly as temperatures rise. Even if I expected to pay more for fuel, that would dwarf the cost of having to flee a deadly fire and rebuild a devastated home and community. The past few Augusts and Septembers we've been here, the smoke from fire has been so toxic that we can't even go outside and enjoy the beautiful surroundings. We simply have to help. The future can not mean we are stuck inside always because the air is too toxic outside. What kind of a life is that anyway?

Scientists agree we have just a few short years to drastically reduce our emission if we want to avoid even worse climate impacts. We must act now and pass HB 2020 now.

Thank you,  
Rebecca Peterson