

## TESTIMONY TO THE OREGON LEGISLATURE

According to the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), if climate change is left unchecked, global warming will subject communities to worsening heat waves, more frequent drought, rising sea levels, and more extreme weather over the course of this century. Here in the Pacific Northwest we've experienced challenging weather patterns affecting farmers, fiercer forest fires, and ocean warming which has impacted our shellfish industries and fishermen. To avoid the worst impacts of climate change, UCS says, the United States must reduce its emissions at least 30 percent by 2020, and 80 percent by 2050.

To address this challenge, Oregon State Senators and House members have crafted The Clean Energy Jobs Bill. This launches a cap and invest program, which establishes a limit (cap) on emissions of global warming pollution in Oregon (i.e. power plants, chemical manufacturing, etc.) and lowers that limit over time. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regulates these contaminating businesses and plays a part.

Polluter's paying for permits to pollute are called allowances. These allowances are auctioned raising proceeds and may be traded between regulated entities. Thus, value is created for reducing pollution. Polluters who can reduce their impact on greenhouse gases the fastest can sell (trade) their allowances to other businesses that need them. For example, as a power plant transitions to sustainable energy it can trade its permits to pollute to an industrial chemical facility. And changing to a sustainable energy source supports clean economics.

Before 2017's Paris Global Warming Agreement Conference in Bonn, Germany, Governor Kate Brown adopted broad green building and battery electric vehicle goals. An editorial in the Daily Astorian on November 16, 2017, insured that Oregon Senate Bill 1070 would hurt Oregon business. On the contrary, thousands of solar manufacturers, battery, transformer and sustainable construction material companies now exist worldwide. Supplying the building industry with roofing, insulation, wind power manufacturing, solar generation and storage options. There are now nineteen electric vehicle (EV) companies in the world and five in this country. EV charging infrastructure multiplies monthly. And many of these businesses are located in Oregon, employing manufacturing assemblers, installers, sales people, and designers.

Locally, in Astoria, three solar arrays were installed last year at Buoy Beer and Alderbrook Station as well as Clatsop Community College's Patriot Hall remodel by P & C Renovation, Portland, who added additional solar panels later. Their Physics department has instrumentation which tracks and records the power the installations contribute to the college's energy savings. Seaside has an eight

bay Tesla fast charging station. Sunset Empire Transit has an AeroViroment charger with two plugs, one a level 2 and the other a DC fast charger. There are two established companies installing solar here, A&R Solar and Precision Indoor Heating and Air Quality. Search the Internet under, solar home construction Oregon, and a number of regional builders appear who specialize in sustainable home building with solar energy benefits.

Not only does Oregon profit from these environmentally conscious businesses, but training has been offered for over a decade in the state. The Oregon Institute of Technology, Columbia Gorge Community College, and Lane Community College train wind technicians. And locally, Clatsop Community College offers two sustainable energy classes.

All these courses follow the long established Limited Renewable Energy Technician guidelines established by the State of Oregon in their Apprenticeship and Training Division.

So for over a decade this state has been establishing a firm foundation in sustainable energy businesses and the education to support it's successful implementation.

SB 1070 will:

- Create a limit or cap, on Oregon's climate pollution, which lowers each year.
- Caps emissions from transportation, utilities, and industrial processes.
- It will set a price on each ton of climate pollution emitted by large utilities, fossil fuel companies, and other big industrialists.
- It will reinvest the proceeds in clean energy solutions such as solar, wind, energy efficient homes and businesses, public transit, electric vehicles and EV infrastructure.
- Enforce the state's existing climate goals and sets interim targets for 2025, 2035 and a final reduction of 80% by 2050.
- Promotes transparency through an inclusive advisory and oversight committee.

Regulated companies can meet their obligations in three ways:

1. Reduce their climate emissions on-site, below cap.
2. Purchase allowances at auction or trade for them for the balance of their emissions.
3. Meet part of their obligation through "offsets", where a different entity reduces their emissions by an equivalent or greater amount.

Thirty-nine countries and ten states in the U.S. have a system to price carbon pollution. In the 1980's and 1990's the United States solved the acid rain problem with a similar pollution pricing system. California and nine Northeastern States

have adopted the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Over the last ten years greenhouse gas production is falling while the economies in the Northeast are ahead of the rest of the nation. California, Ontario, and Quebec are in a North American cap and trade market, with other Canadian provinces joining soon. Oregon could link up with this successful system, reducing costs and giving businesses more options to diminish their emissions. Joining a tried-and-true policy that has been tested elsewhere.

The Clean Energy Jobs Bill has the potential to raise 60 million dollars per year, which can benefit communities across the State by making clean power, such as solar and wind, available. Oregon has limits for climate pollution already on the books, but this bill would enforce those laws. Many different people are employed in a clean energy economy; manufacturing workers, construction trades, engineers, sales people, designers, administrators, and custodians. This is a bill that can both clean up our atmosphere and stimulate the economy.