



3/2/2019

To: Co-chairs, Michael Dembrow & Karin Power
And members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction

re: HB 2020 Clean Energy Jobs Bill

When my husband, Richard Steffensen and I started our business, Strictly Organic Coffee Company, nearly 20 years ago, we were advised by business mentors that it would never work. They said we would never be able to compete if we limited ourselves to organic and fairly traded products and paid our employees for time off and provided insurance. We were told over and over we couldn't do right by the environment and our employees and still be successful. It hasn't always been easy, but 20 years in, I think we can safely say, they were wrong. We are proud to be a sustainable business employing 42 people in the State of Oregon, where our lawmakers have their eyes on the future.

It is with great interest and hope that we have followed other states and their successful cap-and-invest programs and the exciting recent independent study that shows how our own HB 2020 will benefit the people of our state. By building clean energy into all parts of our economy and creating thousands of good-paying jobs, we'll make our communities stronger, our businesses more competitive and position our state to take the lead in lowering emissions and making our communities more livable.

In 2017, wildfires cost Oregon \$51.5 million in lost visitor spending. We were especially hurt here in Central Oregon where we were poised for a great economic boost from tourists coming to view the Solar Eclipse; because of smoke, many canceled their plans. We can't let this become our new normal.

The time is now. Clean Energy Jobs policies have been in the making for over a decade. It's time to pass HB 2020 to keep Oregon on the right track toward sustainability.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
in behalf of myself, Richard Steffensen and the Strictly Organic Coffee Co. Family,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rhonda L. Ealy".

Rhonda L. Ealy

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