

Hi,

My name is Laurel Hamilton. I heard that some extra time was allotted to provide written testimony in support of Clean Energy Jobs bill HB 2020 due to the heavy storms in Oregon. I live and work in Bend, Oregon. Impacts of climate change have become apparent in the last ten years here in Bend. Wildfires, draught, heavier snow storms and unpredictable weather patterns have all become commonplace. This reality isn't sustainable, its expensive and dangerous to Oregonians. We must take whatever actions we can to limit polluting emissions of our economy. While I studied to work in international development with a Masters in Public Health, I have chosen to instead work in the solar industry because I felt strongly that the greater need to address environment is the biggest threat of our time. I manage operations for an Oregon solar company that works in residential, commercial, and utility scale solar. We have opportunities to capture and use 100% clean energy in this state and save money while doing so. I also am a citizen member for the City of Bend's Climate Action Planning Steering Committee. I am committed to finding solutions alongside my community to responsible actions that curb climate pollutants.

I am in support of HB 2020 because cap and invest has been proven in studies to benefit our economy and greatly reduce pollution into our atmosphere. Investments available from the bill will create jobs for Oregonians

However, my only hesitation is that coming from the solar industry, the accessibility of solar to Oregonians has been drastically changed since we lost the RETC solar tax credit and there is nothing explicitly in HB 2020 that says investments will go towards improving accessibility of solar to Oregon households. With the cost of energy so cheap, largely due to subsidies, in Oregon the cost of residential solar can be prohibitive. Even though there is always a break even payback point with solar and it thus is always cheaper than 20 years of utility fossil fuel and hydro power. Investments from HB 2020 should benefit the thriving solar industry which provides good paying jobs and gives people the choice to go net zero.

Despite that hesitation, I know that cap and invest is a good thing for the environment and Oregonians and we should without a doubt pass this bill. I fully support HB 2020.

Best, Laurel



**Laurel Hamilton**

Operations Manager  
*NABCEP Certified PV Technical Sales Professional*

office: (541) 316-5786

mobile: (360) 927-5080

site: [www.elementalenergy.net](http://www.elementalenergy.net)



*Selected as one of Solar Power World's "Top Solar Contractors" 2013-2018.*