

Senate President Peter Courtney
House Majority Leader Tina Kotek
Senator Michael Dembrow
Representative Karin Power
Members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction

Re: Recommendations on HB2020

As a computational scientist studying various aspects of ocean science and a manager of oceanic and atmospheric data, I see troubling trends in data everyday symptomatic of a rapidly changing environment. In graduate school, I researched sediment dynamics and circulation of the Columbia River estuary which required caveats about the work describing the contemporary system which is very likely to change due to climate change in the near future with effects touching on ecosystem services, hydropower, and salmon habitat amongst others.

Given that context, I am grateful and supportive of the Committee's commitment to passing the long overdue legislation to comprehensively address climate change. I believe the framework and design prescribed by the legislation will lead to a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in a just and efficient manner that will hold everyone accountable for their contributions to climate change.

A critical piece of that accountability is ensuring that a strong enough cap is established to be aligned with the physics of climate change and to ensure there are sufficient incentives for the market to create innovative cost-effective pathways to a low-carbon economy. This includes strong cap reduction targets of at least 55% and 2035 as informed by current climate science.

It is also important that everyone is held accountable for their contribution to climate change. This includes thoughtful allocation of free exemptions trade exposed businesses and regular compliance mechanisms to ensure that these effected businesses steadily work towards cleaner operations. All major contributors of greenhouse gases must be subject to cap including municipal waste incinerators, generators used in higher education facilities, all combustible fuel sold in state including that used for rail, marine, and aviation purposes, and all infrastructure used for development, processing, or transportation of fossil fuels.

Having witnessed the positive impact that trade training at a community college has had on my brother's and father's lives, I am excited about the funding for job training to work on weatherization and energy efficiency upgrades for residents' homes. As this has the opportunity to both create jobs and decrease monthly utility bills, I strongly urge that this include a sliding scale mechanism to help with the sometimes steep costs associated with weatherization.

Finally, I strongly urge specific language included to ensure that this bill include regular reviews of the progress in greenhouse gas emission reductions to ensure that the bill is functioning as designed.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jesse Lopez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jesse" being more prominent and the last name "Lopez" following in a similar style.

Dr. Jesse Lopez