Lisa Seales
JCCR Exhibits
Clean Energy Jobs Bill
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Co-chairs Dembrow and Power, and members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction,

My name is Lisa Seales. I'm a Bend resident, an Oregon native, and a doctor of ecology. I've spent the last 15 years researching and teaching environmental policy and water resource management, and now I'm working on modernizing irrigation, to address many of the concerns you have heard about this bill from members of the agricultural community in our state.

I'm writing to show strong support for HB2020. Climate change is real. It is not something that might occur in some far-off future. It's happening now! Mega storms, floods, and catastrophic wildfires are already impacting our state. We will be reacting to and dealing with natural disasters like these from here on out. Therefore, the time to act is now!

Historically, Oregon has been a leader on important environmental legislation and we have the opportunity to lead on this critical issue, reap the benefits of a clean energy economy, and pave the way for other states to follow in our footsteps.

Although this bill will undoubtedly cause changes in our economy and our communities, it will open up a world of new economic opportunities. I have already experienced first-hand the benefits of a clean energy economy. My significant other is an electrician that has spent the last several years working exclusively in the utility-scale solar industry, which has already created thousands of living-wage jobs, as well as direct and indirect economic impacts in our local economy. As I have already mentioned, I am currently employed working on irrigation modernization, aimed at saving water and energy while providing benefits to farmers such as increased water security and reduced pumping costs. Irrigation modernization can also create opportunities for off-channel hydro power.

These are examples of exactly the types of innovative solutions that HB2020 can and should fund and support that will ameliorate the concerns of many of those who are skeptical of this bill.

I urge you to pass HB2020 to help our state in our much-needed transition to a clean economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best, Lisa

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