

From: [Rebecca Matsumoto](#)
To: [JCCR Exhibits](#)
Cc: [Rep Greenlick](#); [Sen Steiner Hayward](#)
Subject: Strong support of HB2020 from someone who cares for our children
Date: Thursday, March 7, 2019 11:06:27 PM

Co-chairs Dembrow and Power, and members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction,

I want to personally thank you for all of the hard work you have put in over the past few years to craft HB2020, and your vision of an Oregon with less pollution, less extreme weather, and more stability and happiness for the children.

My name is Rebecca Matsumoto and I am an early childhood educator working with 4-5 year olds in Beaverton. I entered this field late in life because I believe strongly in supporting the physical, emotional and intellectual health of our children in order to have contented, inventive and humanitarian citizens.

In recent years, we have experienced a week at a time when drought-fueled forest fires made the air too unsafe for children to play out of doors. I have taught the children about the incredible creatures of the Rainforest only to discover that it is being burned at an tremendous rate and that it no longer absorbs carbon like it used to. When they learn about birds, I learn that half of all American bird species will be at risk of extinction from climate change due to fossil fuel use. When they study butterflies, I learn that the population of Monarchs has been decimated and insects around the world are going missing.

I have come to realize that the world my students are growing into is in a state of crisis, regardless of how well I care for them now. Extreme weather events and climactic changes are already affecting the world's population, destabilizing communities, increasing conflict, disrupting crop harvests and food supplies in addition to upsetting the balance of the natural world.

Those who make it their life's work to understand these things tell us that it will only get worse and that unless we enact significant changes within the next 11 years- by the time my students are just 16- the effects

are irreversible:

The UN's IPCC panel determined that unless carbon emissions are reduced by half by 2030 and eliminated by 2055, “researchers find very few (if any) ways to reduce emissions after 2030 sufficiently quickly to limit warming.” (*IPCC Special Report FAQ, p. 6, line 38*)

If we continue our current carbon emissions, the report indicates, by 2060 the climate is likely to change to an extent that in addition to the extinctions, flooding and extreme weather, there will be severe and widespread risk to crop yields worldwide (*IPCC Summary for Policymakers, p. 12-13*), which translates to severe and widespread famine.

I am writing to you today to insist that we have run out of time to put this legislation into effect, and to ask you to look at what is truly important, the safety and security of our children. They will never get a chance to protect themselves from the climactic collapse. We have to act now.

There is a better way, and that is a clean energy future for Oregon and beyond. No amount of fossil fuel money is worth the cost of inaction.

Thank you,

Rebecca Matsumoto
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