

Co-Chairs Dembrow and Power, and members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction; thank you for hearing us today.

My name is Debi Ferrer. I've lived in The Dalles for 45 years. I taught high school biology here for 32 of those years. I am speaking today strongly in support of HB 2020.

People my age remember when Oregon was a true leader on environmental issues. In the 1960s, we protected our beaches from private development. Our 1971 bottle bill was the first in the nation. Unfortunately, as the Oregonian has so carefully documented in recent articles, corporate money in Oregon politics has drastically altered our tradition of protecting our environment. Opposition to HB 2020 by the fossil fuel industry is just another example of this corruption. As Oregonians, we must not let the fossil fuel industry dictate what happens in our state. Surveys show that 75% of us approve of a cap and invest program, like HB 2020.

In the late 1960s, there was far, far LESS consensus on the effects of DDT than there is today on the effects of rising CO₂ levels. Nevertheless, some courageous politicians trusted the science, and DDT was banned in 1972. The eagles and ospreys that are now so common in our Gorge are just one of the many positive results.

For years, the Republican Party has denied the existence of human-caused climate change and has thwarted all efforts to address this real emergency. It's time for Oregon to renew its traditions and take a stand against such dangerous anti-science.

Too often, we have been willing to pay only for a product, not for the cost of that product on the environment. That must change. The cost of HB 2020 will be small compared to the cost of continued inaction. Additionally, this bill will invest that cost in clean energy jobs. It is a giant step in the right direction.

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