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March 8, 2019

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

Re: Policy Recommendations on HB 2020

As I've pointed out in repeated testimony, climate change is not the defining issue of our time, it is the defining issue for all time. We are literally looking at an existential crisis. Sadly, not one that is obvious to everyone. After watching some of the testimony from the eastern areas I feel it is incumbent on me to point out that this bill should not be weakened in any way, at least in the last iteration I've seen, it is not nearly strong enough to do Oregon's part to meet this horrific challenge. For example, it does not take into account the current practices of the logging industry which is a critical piece.

I would also request that the following changes be made to the bill:

The targets for the cap should be more rigorous: Green House Gases measured against 1990 levels should aim for 20% by 2025, 60% by 2035 and achieve 100% by 2050

Decisions made by the PUC need to take climate into account – least cost and least risk need to consider the rate payers of the future and the damages they will face.

The EITs should not be given 100% free allowance. I should think that 80 or 90% should be sufficient.

There should be no exemptions for HFCs used in the tech industry, they are insanely profitable, they can more than afford to do their part to reduce our climate risk, they should not be allowed to externalize their costs while completely internalizing their profits.

Offsets should be limited to no more than 4% and the bulk of the environmental benefits should be in Oregon.

Marine and Aviation fuels should not be exempted. Air travel has a huge impact on climate change and the fisheries will be one of the first things to go if we don't solve this. A little skin in the game on their part would make sense.

We need to figure out a way for the transportation portion to be used for modes of transportation that actually reduce the greenhouse gases, not allow more single occupancy carbon fueled cars to travel more comfortably.

As a state we need to commit to stopping the use of fossil fuels. A big part of that would be to disallow any new significant fossil fuel infrastructure like Jordan Cove. There is no reason to cause a bunch of stranded assets to reside in our state, and if we are to survive, the use of such assets will come to an end in the next 20 years or so.

And as I've previously requested the advisory board should include more than one city representative, at the very least, one large and one small city.

Thank you for your consideration on this, the most important bill you will every work on.

Sincerely,

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