

Dear Representative Nathanson and Senator Manning,

I am writing in full support of HB 2020. First, I want to thank you for your support on this bill so far. My colleagues tell me that you have been supportive of this initiative, and I am writing to encourage you to not only support this legislation, but to fight for it. I know that the fossil fuel industry is running an ad campaign that attacks this bill throughout Oregon. But please know that many of your constituents, including myself, my household, and my community, are behind the effort to make Oregon a leader in the transition off of fossil fuels, into a sustainable energy transition.

I'm sure you've heard the increasingly dire testimony from scientists, advocates, and concerned citizens about how rapidly climate change is happening. I am an environmental sociology with an M.A. in Sociology and an M.S. in International Environmental Policy. I recently taught a class on the Sociology of Climate Change at the University of Oregon. I have been working on social issues pertaining to climate change all of my adult life. I have watched for more than a decade as we have surpassed benchmarks and produced emissions that are linked to the worst case scenarios of the IPCC, the international body of climate scientists. I have watched as the people in my life struggled with the emotional weight of knowing that their health, safety, and well being were imperiled, and that those in power did little to turn the tides. Even as environmental conditions worsened, so did social ones. I am an academic, a professor in training, and I have many friends with PhDs and Master's; even the most highly educated, skilled amongst us struggle to make ends meet, and to keep up with the cost of living in Oregon.

HB 2020 is both environmentally sound, socially fair, and an economic boon. Clean energy is cheaper energy, and the jobs a clean energy industry produce are clean, sustainable jobs! I know my colleagues have shared with you an independent study that showed that HB 2020 will add to household income at all tax brackets, produce up to 50,000 jobs, and lower costs for people and community groups. This legislation is equitable, going to support some of the most marginalized communities in Oregon, that need this support the most. And we know that it works! Oregon could be part of a turning tide, taking a real leadership role—but this is not unknown territory. Cap-and-invest is practical, but also fair. It creates social and economic stability that we desperately need.

Last year a new report came out that shows we have 11 years to reduce emissions before our climate fate is sealed. This report came out while I was teaching undergraduate students about the decades of inaction on climate change that have passed. I watched my students grapple with despair, anxiety, fear for their future, and dismay at the feelings of betrayal that come from realizing that your elected representatives have given in to industry lobbying, time and time again. I also struggle with these feelings, and I urge you to write us out of the shameful part of history when we waited for someone else to come and fix a problem that we have the capacity to solve. I hope I can count on you to be on the right side of this turning of the tides, and vote in support of HB 2020, and its companion bill in the Senate. Thank you for taking my comments.

Sincerely,

Allison Ford  
Doctoral Candidate | Department of Sociology  
Graduate Employee | Women's and Gender Studies  
University of Oregon | [allisonf@uoregon.edu](mailto:allisonf@uoregon.edu)  
605 PLC | 331 Hendricks