Laurie Dougherty
JCCR Exhibits
Support for HB 2020
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Co-Chair Dembrow, Co-Chair Power and members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction:

I support HB 2020 and urge you to approve it with a recommendation to move it forward in the legislature. Oregon can be leader in the effort to deal with climate change.

As well as putting a cap on greenhouse gas emissions, the ability to generate funds to be invested in developing Oregon's renewable energy economy is a crucial aspect of this bill. This investment can create good jobs, build economic capacity and develop healthy neighborhoods. Therefore, it is very important that these funds be used in a way that will enable all Oregonians to participate in this economic transition. To ensure equity and a just transition, the bill must include specific allocations of funds to be invested in low income communities, tribes, rural areas and communities of color.

In order to make HB 2020 as strong and effective as possible, it must be directed toward development of truly clean renewable energy. Therefore I urge you to delete Section 10(2)(b) which would "exclude from regulated emissions" under this bill "Greenhouse gas emissions from the direct combustion of municipal solid waste to generate renewable energy including but not limited to electricity, transportation fuels or heat." The only facility burning municipal solid waste for energy is located in Marion County and operated by Covanta. Greenhouse gas emissions reported to DEW from this facility are over 160,000 metric tons of CO2e annually which far exceeds the threshold under HB 2020. This is not renewable energy. The anthropogenic portion contains a large amount of plastic which is made from fossil fuels and which generates toxic emissions as well as greenhouse gas emissions. The biogenic portion includes wood and other organics which take time, often years of regrowth to sequester the carbon which is emitted instantly when burned. HB 2020 should look forward to support truly renewable sources of energy.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on HB 2020.

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