I recently attended a public hearing on the Clean Air Jobs bill and was overwhelmed with the degree of misinformation that was shared with the legislative panel. I am confident that you are all able to discriminate between the rantings of fearful citizens and those thoughtful comments of citizens who study the issues and provide reasoned testimony.

I testified in Salem in support of the earlier legislation 2 years ago. Since then I have become even more convinced that although Oregon contributes a small percentage of the global greenhouse gasses, we must do our part to address the REALITY that the climate is warming at an ever increasing rate.

This legislation is patterned after successful cap and trade laws that have been employed successfully in over a dozen other states. In spite of the cries that this bill will result in a catastrophic loss of jobs, that has not happened in any of these states.

Since moving to Oregon in 1974 I have watched our state struggle with the impacts of our greenhouse gas emissions: wigwam burner, woodstove smoke, smudge pot smoke. For several years here in the Rogue Valley you could not fly in or out because of the winter fog that was made worse by these pollutants. But we have managed here with regulation of the use such processes to clean up our air and don't suffer from the fog.

The changes that have helped improve our air quality were not cheap and resulted in losses to some. HB 2020 will provide a framework for allowing those businesses responsible for the emitting greenhouse gasses to provide funds to allow green jobs to be created and to provide assistance for low income consumers of electricity. I trust you will agree to take the steps necessary for address this global existential crisis by seeing that HB 2020 become law. Thank you for your consideration.

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