

Dear The Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction,

I'm writing to urge you to pass the strongest possible version of the Clean Energy Jobs bill (House Bill 2020) in 2019. No other policy this session will do more to reduce climate pollution in Oregon and tackle humanity's greatest problem. It's taken years of work to get here and it is past time for bold action.

The cap-and-invest system set up by Clean Energy Jobs not only guarantees harmful pollution will be reduced, but it will also build up our economy and communities at the same time.

From wildfires to water shortages, we've already begun to live with the effects of climate change in Oregon. These last few years have been a wake-up call. Our state must lead the way in meeting this challenge for the rest of the nation.

I ask you to work on my behalf for a strong bill with a meaningful cap to reduce emissions as quickly as scientists say we must. The legislation should include targets to reduce GHG emissions by 20% by 2025, at least 55% by 2035 and 100% by 2050.

Utilities should not be given freely assigned allowances, and there should be no more than 25% free allowances for emissions-intensive, trade-exposed industries (EITEs). Any accommodation for EITEs should support in-state production, be needs-based only, be regularly re-evaluated, and be phased out altogether by 2030.

Offsets should be limited to Oregon-only projects, with a limit of 2%. The program must ensure that offset benefits accrue to Oregon communities, do not contribute to pollution "hotspots" in other states, and are only given for emissions reductions that would not have happened in the absence of the offset program.

Hold all major polluters accountable with a price on greenhouse gases. Don't allow for exemptions for any polluting industries, including aviation, marine, and railroad fuels, as well as fluorinated gases and solid waste incinerators. Any attempt to exempt the proposed Jordan Cove LNG terminal from coverage in the legislation must absolutely be denied.

Those who are hit first and worst by climate change should be a priority for investment, to provide job opportunities and benefit communities. This means prioritizing low-income, rural, communities of color and Oregon Tribes for investments, jobs, and training.

Finally, we need decision-making structures that are transparent, equitable, flexible, and accountable. All advisory and oversight committees should have an over-representation of historically underrepresented communities; the Environmental Justice Task Force, equity groups, and Sovereign Nation representatives must play significant and meaningful roles.

I ask you to champion bold climate action with a strong HB 2020.

Sincerely,

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