



Office of Mayor Ted Wheeler
City of Portland

June 5, 2019

Senator Kathleen Taylor and Representative Jeff Reardon
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Natural Resources
900 Court Street, NE, HR F
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 2020

Dear Co-Chairs Taylor and Reardon and Members of the Subcommittee:

The City of Portland urges your support for HB 2020. HB 2020 will reduce carbon pollution and mitigate the impact of climate change by creating a market-based solution to reduce carbon emissions statewide. The bill also takes steps to distribute investments justly and equitably to impacted communities.

Climate change presents one of the most far-reaching environmental, economic, public health and social problems of the 21st century, especially for Portland's communities of color and low-income populations. The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report in October 2018 with a warning that only a dozen years remain to act to avoid significant consequences of global climate change. The IPCC report concludes that carbon pollution must be reduced swiftly and significantly over the next decade to stay below a 1.5°C increase in the global temperature. The problem is urgent and immense.

The City of Portland is committed to a goal of meeting 100 percent of community energy needs with renewables by 2050. Through experience, we know that reducing carbon emissions can go hand-in-hand with growing jobs. In 1993, the City of Portland was the first U.S. city to create a local action plan for reducing carbon emissions. Between 1990 and 2016, Portland welcomed 33 percent more people, grew jobs by 24 percent and reduced carbon emissions by 42 percent per capita and 19 percent overall. However, we collectively must do more.

The transportation sector is a fundamental component of reducing carbon emissions. In Portland, transportation accounts for approximately 40 percent of the city's total emissions. Reducing single occupancy vehicle trips, increasing transit ridership, building safe infrastructure to encourage more active transportation, and transitioning to electric and other zero-emission

vehicles are core to reducing emission levels. The City of Portland is committed to progress in all of these areas.

Now is the time for Oregon to enact a comprehensive and economy-wide policy for reducing carbon pollution and investing in a low-carbon economy that will benefit all Oregonians. Capping and establishing a price for carbon pollution captures the true cost of this pollution, protects clean air, and creates more clean energy jobs. We respectfully urge your support for HB 2020. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ted Wheeler', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ted Wheeler
Mayor