

From: [Joseph Stenger](#)
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Cc: [Sen Frederick](#); [Rep Sanchez](#)
Subject: SB 1530 in 2020 session- Climate Emergency
Date: Saturday, February 1, 2020 12:36:06 PM

Dear Chair Senator Dembrow, Members of the Committee and my Legislators,

I am deeply concerned about the rapidly increasing and alarming changes we see all around us due to our altered climate. I strongly support passage of this new version of the bill to cap greenhouse gas emissions, as long as it is in its most robust form.

Specifically, I urge strict and transparent regulations on entities covered by the GHG cap, including large consumers of "natural" gas (mostly fracked gas). If we are to achieve our necessary target to get to net zero GHG emissions by 2050, we need to apply rigorous standards that include the vast majority of major polluters. We cannot continue to allow these large corporations to continue to release huge amounts of climate-damaging emissions without substantial penalties, so that they have the financial incentive to reduce them rapidly. The future for our children and grandchildren depends on taking swift and decisive action.

I urge you to address statewide transportation emissions. While a phase-in process to include various geographic areas (starting with Portland Metro) may be a necessary compromise to ensure passage of this bill, I advocate that we eventually include the whole state to maximize the environmental benefits and to encourage moving toward electrifying our fleet as rapidly as possible. I understand that heavy trucking may continue to rely on burning fossil fuels until a cleaner fuel source is developed that works well for this usage. However, increasing the incentives to develop low GHG transportation of all forms is crucial.

I urge you to include definite language to actively involve impacted front-line communities that are often left out of planning and governance, but are often most affected by climate damage that negatively affects agriculture, increases personal risk to those working outside, and raises costs of cooling a home.

I urge you to include language to declare a **climate emergency**. We are in an unprecedented crisis. Any delay increases the damage and makes mitigation attempts less effective. The functions of this bill need to be implemented without delay.

I know that you are being inundated with messages stating that any legislation to limit GHG emissions will be damaging to certain populations and segments of our economy. It is true that addressing this crisis will be much more difficult now than it would have been when I first started activism on this issue decades ago. However, now our backs are against the wall. We have no choice but to take decisive action. We should strive to mitigate the impact of legislation on any specific group but we must move forward! Capping GHG emissions may cause some short-term financial problems in some sectors, but further delay of decisive action will be a monumental mistake, causing untold damage to our fisheries, agriculture, water supply, forests and ourselves.

Shifting to a renewable-energy-based economy will generate tremendous new hiring opportunities- we must encourage training and education that prepares our workforce for these new jobs. We need targeted efforts to assist communities adversely affected by this bill to assist moving into a new era that protects the environment that we all depend on for our lives.

Wildfires are more ferocious (my brother and sister-in-law in Redding CA almost died in the Carr Fire last year). Our air in Portland has been dangerous to health recently due to fires. Getting through a summer safely in Western OR now requires air-conditioning-those without it suffer. Dungeness crabs are dying off. Oyster fisheries are dwindling. Fisheries in general are in decline. Pika bunnies are disappearing from Crater Lake Park. Bird and frog species are dying off a rapid rate. Coastal towns will flood as the ocean rises. Unless we take decisive action, what kind of legacy are we leaving for our descendants?

I applaud your leadership in moving forward with this bill despite heavy opposition. It is crucial we get this done. The time is now!

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this crucial bill.

Sincerely,

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