

Senator Michael Dembrow  
Chair, Senate Interim Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

January 31, 2020

Re: Urgent Action on Climate Change for All Oregonians

Dear Senator,

My name is Karl Wenner, MD and I live in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Since 1989, I have been a doctor as well as a farmer and rancher in the Klamath Basin. I am an avid outdoorsman and well and all of my activities have exposed me to the very real and detrimental aspects of climate change that is affecting our state and my region in particular

I am writing to you to express concern about the escalating risks and effects of a changing climate in my community.

I am certain that the impacts I witness, and experience are not isolated. Oregonians who live and work on the land and in our waters are directly at risk of experiencing the effects of our changing climate-- drought, wildfire, rising sea levels and unpredictable harvests. Urgent action on climate is needed for our communities, including meaningful investments in restoring our natural and working lands.

Low income and other climate-impacted people including in communities I live and work in will increasingly bear the brunt of climate change. The cost of doing nothing to mitigate and adapt to climate change is too high. I appreciate your leadership and urge you to take swift action to pass a carbon pricing bill this session.

This legislative session, you can help create a stronger and healthier Oregon by addressing climate change and passing a strong carbon pricing bill. I would support a policy that makes significant, economy-wide reductions in carbon emissions that are putting our natural landscapes, communities and health at risk; while generating new investments in restoring our forests, rivers and working lands.

Sincerely,

Karl Wenner, MD

*Cc: Representative Reschke/ Senator Linthicum*