February 4, 2020

TO: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
FROM: Carol Greenough, Tualatin
SUBJECT: Support for SB 1530

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Olsen, and Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Thank you for your hard work on this issue. The new amendments reflect your responsiveness to all citizens of Oregon. While I wish we could pass an even stronger bill, passing this bill is imperative.

I don't fully understand cap and invest, but I understand young people. I have worked with them all of my life. Some feel hopeless about their future, some are incredibly active trying to ensure that things get better. All are scared that nothing will change. We owe it to them to do the best we can to lead in climate action. This bill does that.

But I also have a concern. i am also a former Alaskan commercial fisher and ran a mental health center in a small Alaskan fishing town. I understand the angst of those who feel that their lifestyle is threatened by this bill. I remember sitting with a fisherman who had been told to retire by his doctor. He came to my office in a mix of panic and despair on the first day of the season - he didn't know who he was without his profession. I also worked with loggers. When I stood beside Timber Unity protesters, each of us trying to give visibility for our side of the issue, I heard much misinformation that fueled their fears. But I also realized that they had that fear - that the core of who they were was being threatened. This is a hard thing to address.

So, I am glad to see the attempts to further reach out to impacted communities and livelihoods that are in the amendments. My dream is that we could try to heal this divide by doing outreach comparable to that done with the Student Success Act. We need to be sure that we not only tell the opponents of this bill what we will do for them, we need to create a safe space to hear from them.

Hopefully we will pass SB 1530 and can begin the healing as we move on to save our future.

Thank you.