

TESTIMONY ON SB 1530

Dear legislative assembly,

When I first learned about climate change in the late 1980s, I worked to raise awareness of the serious threats of a warming world. In graduate school in the early 1990s, I modeled how climate change would impact Sub-Saharan Africa and studied how responsible public policy could change the frightening trajectory. And from 1996 till very recently, I worked in a professional role in Oregon forwarding policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation and other sectors. During that time, I helped stop ridiculous legislation in Oregon (anyone remember HR 3 of 2005 that passed the House, declaring state agencies should adopt no controls of greenhouse gas emissions?). And I helped pass meaningful legislation that has put our state on the map when it comes to taking climate change seriously (e.g., Oregon's Clean Fuels Program).

But looking forward, I am terrified. I am terrified that the Pacific islanders I worked with when I was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Palau will no longer be able to sustain themselves because of rising sea levels, bleached coral reefs, and the fact that their main source of protein—sea life—is being depleted. I am terrified that climate change is already leading to more conflict and displacement around the world due to food and water scarcity, severe weather events, and other impacts on economic growth and the ability for people to pursue a livelihood. And I am terrified that those government entities that have the ability to change things (and the will of the people behind them)—including Oregon—will still not take the action needed to lead the world to a safer future.

Without strong action, we will not be able to stop the worst impacts of climate change, impacts that will harm the poorest among us most (the very same people who are least responsible for greenhouse gas emissions). Without strong action, we will compromise our children's future and we will allow more than half of the world's species to go extinct.

Which brings me to SB 1530. The Oregon Legislature simply can't punt again on putting a cap and price on carbon. Everything that scientists said was likely under a warming planet when I first learned about climate change in the late 1980s is coming true, and it's hitting us even faster and with greater ferocity than originally predicted.

I urge you to pass SB 1530 now.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Hagerbaumer
1324 SE Haig St.
Portland, Oregon