



February 8, 2020

Chair Debrow, Vice-Chair Olson, and Members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

Children First works with our 120 partner organizations to develop the Children's Agenda. We identify and elevate legislative concepts that will support the needs of Oregon's children - our children - so that each child has the opportunity to reach their full potential. **SB 1530, helping us transition to a clean energy economy, is part of the 2020 Children's Agenda.**

Our Steering Committee carefully considers every concept that is submitted by a Children's Agenda partner, and discusses whether it meets the criteria of having a tangible impact on the lives of Oregon children, and addressing equity issues. SB 1530 meets those criteria. In particular, we focused on the following issues:

1. The environment is a children's issue. A national children's advocate recently visited Oregon, and shared what motivates her to do the work she does - she explained that each of us leaves two collective legacies - our children and our environment. She laid out that for her work to be meaningful she needs to focus on policy and actions that nurtures both. We agree with her, and that sentiment is at the core of how we look at climate policy.
2. In all our work, we attempt to elevate the voices of those most impacted by an issue. We believe that those closest to the problem or issue, are closest to the solution. In the case of climate action, the growing emergence of youth leadership is extremely powerful, and we must not ignore their call to action. They embody a sense of urgency, because they see the implications for their future. Whatever the current leaders do today, will have a tremendous impact on the world we will leave to our children.

The time for action on this issue is now.

Sincerely,

Chris Coughlin
Legislative Director

Our Children Oregon

Bringing Together Children First for Oregon and the Children's Trust Fund of Oregon

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