



## Hair on Fire Oregon

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Chair Power and members of the House Energy and Environment Committee,

Hair on Fire Oregon represents a small group of concerned citizens primarily located in rural, southern Oregon that was formed in early 2015 out of our deep concern over the climate change impacts we are already experiencing on our farms, ranches and businesses.

We have provided testimony for a number of bills in Salem and believe that it is the responsibility of government and the legislature to help pass laws that will **protect** the working lands, natural resources and the economy of Oregon from further impacts, which scientist throughout the world, contribute to increased GHG emissions.

It is from this perspective, that we both commend sponsors--Rep. Powers, Sen. Golden, Rep Marsh and Rep Nosse--and fully support HB 4105.

Evidence that we bring to the attention of the legislature and your committee include both direct and indirect impacts that are and will increasingly be brought to bear on rural citizens of Oregon. One need only to look at the dramatic increase in costly 1 billion dollar and up events that are now occurring across the United States—the average from the 1980 to 1989 was 2.8 events per year at a cost of \$12.8 billion per year compared to the average over the last five years, 2015-2019, of 13.8 events per year at an yearly cost of \$106.3 billion dollars—an almost 5 fold increase in the number of events and an over 8 fold increase in costs.<sup>1</sup> These costs, which include wildfire and drought impacts to state and private property alike are having devastating effects on our rural communities as well as to the budget of Oregon. And these costs, under a business-as-usually scenario, are only predicted to go up with some reports estimating the cost to rise to as much as 20% of GDP.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 2010-2019: A landmark decade of U.S. billion-dollar weather and climate disasters. Adam B. Smith. January 8, 2020. <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/beyond-data/2010-2019-landmark-decade-us-billion-dollar-weather-and-climate>

<sup>2</sup> [An Evaluation of Potential Carbon Pricing Mechanisms for the State of Oregon Policy Paper for the 2014 Oregon Legislature](#)

Public safety and harm to state lands from the transportation of fossil fuels such as oil by train and natural gas, natural gas liquids and crude oil by pipeline are additional risks that cause both direct and indirect safety concerns.

Clean renewable energy generated from hydro, solar, wind and geothermal—resources that Oregon has in abundance—are increasing rapidly around the country and the world as a very real and viable option and alternative to fossil fuel energy. Examples in Sherman County with wind energy and Lake County with solar energy development illustrate how the build out of renewable energy projects create jobs and income for their counties, while providing clean sources of energy, in the form of electricity, for the rest of the state.

Transitioning to clean renewable energy is absolutely what is needed, but more importantly, it is what is the most economical for all involved. It is now the cheapest source of energy.<sup>3</sup> It does not create additional harmful impacts from GHG fugitive, transport and combustion emissions. It provides for abundant jobs in both the production of the energy and renewable energy products. It generates revenue to rural communities where renewable energy infrastructure is located in the state of Oregon. It saves the state and Oregonians money in health care costs.<sup>4</sup> Promoting clean renewable energy is the future and provides the best path for the least all-in cost.

It is for these reasons, that we whole heartedly support HB 4105 and commend the Bill sponsors for their leadership to pass laws that protect the citizens of this state and the future generations of Oregonians which will follow.

Sincerely,

Ron

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<sup>3</sup> *Lazard's Levelized Cost of Energy and Levelized Cost of Storage 2019*. Nov 7, 2019.

<https://www.lazard.com/perspective/lcoe2019>

<sup>4</sup> <https://thesolutionsproject.org/why-clean-energy/#/map/states/location/OR>