

Dear Senator Dembrow, Senator Olsen and members of the Committee,

I am writing both for myself, a practicing general internist, and, as Governor of the Oregon Chapter of American College of Physicians, in support of SB 1503 and to the Oregon Legislature completing the work started last year by passing a strong cap and invest bill to address climate change.

SB 1530 makes sense in light the science of climate change and to protect our communities of the future from those impacts. I understand our neighbours in rural Oregon worry about the impact of such a bill on their day to day lives. I also believe that our rural neighbours have more to lose from the impact of climate change than than anyone, as can be seen in the wildfires of recent years and the current flooding in eastern Oregon which is directly to higher than historic temperatures melting snow in mid winter. I hope to see this move forward in the current legislative session in a way that respects the concerns of the rural delegations and yet begins to allow Oregon to address its contribution to the rising level of greenhouse gases and climate change.

The Oregon Chapter of the American College of Physicians, which has 1700 internal medicine physician, resident and medical student members supports legislation to cut greenhouse gas emissions such as SB 1530. This cap and invest bill is one key strategy in the path forward towards mitigating and decreasing the rise in carbon dioxide and the shift in climate that has resulted; an increase which will only accelerate should we do nothing.

This is a matter of science and not opinion, and if we do not act soon as a global community, we will see ever increasing negative public health impacts in coming years. Those public health impacts are well documented, and as you know, the burden of climate change is falling, and will fall hardest, on those with the least resources. This has already been demonstrated in our state during the recent years of forest and wildfires, which impacted rural areas far more than urban areas. These fires have been shown to occur in stressed timber and range land suffering from the shifts in climate and availability of water.

The American College of Physicians has evidence-based policy supporting addressing climate change and the public health impacts of climate change which include air pollution, water pollution, flooding, changes in agriculture, food production and forestry, and the rising risks of novel and emerging diseases in areas not previously exposed to them. I have included links to references on ACP's policies and articles on the impact of climate on health at the end of this email.

In short, both as an individual who practices primary care medicine in Oregon and can attest to the health impact of the smoke and air pollution in the last few years, and as Governor of Oregon chapter of ACP, I urge you to find a way forward so that you may pass the first cap and invest legislation in Oregon. Oregon can be a leader in this effort.

Marianne

https://www.acponline.org/acp_policy/policies/climate_change_and_health_2016.pdf

<https://www.acponline.org/acp-newsroom/in-wake-of-recent-reports-internists-call-for-immediate-action-to-address-climate-change>

<https://annals.org/aim/fullarticle/2759527/envisioning-better-u-s-health-care-system-all-reducing-barriers>

<https://www.who.int/globalchange/climate/summary/en/index5.html>

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/our-planet-ourselves-how-climate-change-results-in-emerging-diseases/>

Marianne Parshley, M.D. FACP
Governor Oregon Chapter of American College of Physicians

The way to right wrongs, is to shine the light of truth on them"
-Ida B. Wells

Marianne Parshley, M.D. FACP
Governor Oregon Chapter of American College of Physicians
(No need to reply to my emails after-hours or on the weekends)

PMG Gateway Internal Medicine
Suite 100
1321 N.E. 99th Ave.
Portland, OR 97220
parscook@gmail.com