

Chair Dembrow, Vice-chair Olsen and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Kirsten Davis. I'm a speech therapist in two public schools near Corvallis. I want to thank you for your work on the existential issue of climate change.

As I watch the world failing to take appropriate and strong action on climate change, I am thankful again and again that I have not brought children into the world. I am chilled by all of the changes we are seeing, from the fires in Australia to melting ice shelves and thawing land masses in our arctic regions. I am further chilled by the resistance to addressing climate change that I see in so many of our legislators across the nation. However, I still feel an obligation to act on behalf of future generations both in the way that I live my own life and by engaging at the legislative level. We have everything to lose by not taking strong measures to address climate change and so much to gain by doing so—including good and stable jobs across the state—especially in more rural areas that often suffer a disproportionate amount of unemployment and accompanying stress, financial hardship and even despair, as recently and eloquently documented by Nicolas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn in their recently published book *Tightrope*. Climate change should be uniting us across the so-called “urban-rural divide.” Strong cap-and-invest legislation will help to do just that by creating 50,000 stable, good-paying jobs across the state. In California, Quebec and a number of Northeastern states that have working cap-and-invest systems in place, their economies are growing, emissions are falling and thousands of new jobs have been created. I hope that Oregon will prove to be forward-looking and forward-thinking enough to join these climate leaders and become climate leaders ourselves.

Finally, while many of those who oppose this kind of legislation point to the loss of their livelihood as the reason for their opposition, there are many more who will lose their livelihood as the climate continues to veer out of control. Not every kind of job will continue to remain viable as we phase out old ways of creating energy and phase in new ways, and not everyone will be pleased or comfortable as these changes take place. There will be inevitable hardships and challenges. However, just as humans have met many challenges before and have adapted to new ways of doing things and new ways of living, those whose voices express the most fear will also adapt and find the strength they fear they do not have to engage with new technologies and new job prospects. Their fear of change will not alter the reality we all are facing and will not alter the changes we all must make if life on this planet is to remain viable. Luckily, these voices are in the minority. If we truly live in a democracy, the voices of the majority, who believe in anthropogenic climate change and support strong legislative measures to change the way humanity is living on the earth, should and will prevail.

I hope during this legislative session that meaningful and comprehensive policies addressing climate change will finally be passed. I hope we will have no more cowardly running away across the Idaho border when the majority of both the urban and rural population speaks and acts in favor of climate legislation. We have no more time to lose if we want to have a reasonable existence on this tremendously degraded but still-beautiful planet.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration of this issue and my testimony.