

Ever since humans began burning fossil fuels, the resulting carbon has gone into the atmosphere and formed carbon dioxide molecules. For a long time our ancestors were unaware of these molecules, let alone the fact that they trapped heat and remained in the atmosphere for decades. Today we understand these scientific facts, yet we seem unable to wean ourselves away from fossil fuels. Meanwhile, and tragically, all this trapped heat is wreaking havoc on our weather systems and damaging livelihoods. For example: When your town burns to the ground and your work place is gone, that's job killing.

When your town floods and your workplace is underwater, that's job killing.

When your fields are drenched and you can't get out to plant, that's job killing.

When a drought destroys your harvest, that's job killing.

When warming oceans and rivers decimate fish populations, that's job killing.

When insurance companies go broke because they can't afford more and more billion dollar payouts, that's job killing.

Even if some of these scenarios have not arrived in Oregon yet, they will arrive in time for future generations if no action is taken. Just because Oregon cannot solve this problem alone is not an excuse to do nothing. That would be a cop out. I urge you to pass SB 1530. It is a step in the right direction. Let's be good ancestors.

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