

February 19, 2020

Jonathan Harker, AICP  
SD 23 & HD 45

The Honorable Representative Paul Holvey, Chair  
The Honorable Republican Leader Christine Drazan, Vice-Chair  
The Honorable House Democratic Leader Barbara Smith Warner, Vice-Chair  
House Committee On Rules

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 4167 (SB 1530A)

Dear Chair Holvey, Vice-Chair Drazan, Vice-Chair Warner Johnson, Hayward and Members of the Committee:

I urge you to support passage of legislation during this session that creates an Oregon Greenhouse Initiative program as provided for in SB 1530A and HR 4167. These bills finish the work nearly completed by HB 2020 in the last session. And they have made improvements that include addressing the transportation challenges faced by rural Oregonians and economic challenges faced by impacted communities (as those communities are defined in the bills).

As a father of two millennial-aged sons who have grown up in Oregon I have vested and personal reason to be concerned about their future as Oregonians in the face of climate change.

Professionally I am a retired City land use planner having spent most of my career with Gresham. As a city planner I worked with my community to both understand and then act on what needs to happen on land use issues to ensure that the community is safe, healthy, has a strong economy to participate in and, really, can thrive. That work focused on not just thinking and acting on what needs to happen today but what needs to happen in 10 and 30 years and beyond.

This can be hard work but that is the work you are engaged in as these bills are not only about what needs to happen for tomorrow but what needs to happen so that in 2030 and 2050 and beyond Oregon communities thrive in the face of the impacts of climate change.

Please finish the work of creating a cap, trade and invest program to:

- Funding projects that will help Oregonians and their economy adapt to the changes we are already seeing due to climate change and that will become more pronounced in the future.
- Reduce and sequester GHG's emitted in Oregon. Oregon is not "too minuscule to make a difference". The program will result in significant GHG reduction that will make a positive difference. Moreover, Oregon emits more GHG's than over 100 countries who signed the Paris Climate Accords including Finland, Hungary, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Peru and Sweden.
- Continue and accelerate the momentum of States taking similar climate change action especially in the absence of leadership from the Federal level.
- Supporting a just transition for all Oregonians especially addressing those most impacted by climate change and a transition from fossil fuel to renewable energy systems.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Harker, AICP