

Chairman Holvey and Members of the Committee,

I am a mother and grandparent who has lived in rural Jackson County for almost 50 years. I grow much of my family's food, so I am keenly aware of changes in patterns of precipitation, temperatures, prevalence of insects and birds, fire and smoke, bloom times, and intensifying weather events. I also try to keep informed of scientific reports, and of promising opportunities to transition our economy away from fossil fuels. We've just gone through the hottest decade in thousands of years. The CO2 concentration in the atmosphere is the highest it's been in 800,000 years. We must treat the warming climate and acidifying oceans as the emergencies they are.

I care deeply about the future generations, including my own children and grandchildren, so take all the actions I can to reduce my carbon footprint. But alas, individual actions by concerned and conscientious citizens has not been enough to address Oregon's goals set years ago. Almost every day there is new information documenting worsening climate conditions. We need to cap and reduce greenhouse emissions now. This is a planetary emergency. Cap, trade and invest allows polluters flexibility in reducing emissions and the fees will help us make the transition faster, creating many new jobs.

I am willing to make sacrifices now in order that younger generations and the amazing diversity of flora and fauna have a livable planet. I urge you to adopt this legislation. It is not as strong as I would like, but it does begin to address our crisis.

My deepest appreciation to those of you who have worked so hard on this issue.

Estelle Voeller

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