

RE: Decreasing Greenhouse Gas Emissions Legislation,
Public Hearing, Room F, 5:30-7:30 PM, February 20, 2020

Thank you, Impacts, and My Ask

I appreciate and have benefited from legislation to help lower my carbon footprint. I installed solar panels five years ago, got a tax credit of \$6,000. I bought a new all electric car last year, and will get \$5,000 cash rebates. I recently qualified for the \$5,000 cash rebate for installing more solar panels on my roof. So, thank you.

As you can see, I'm trying to practice what I preach. I'm also acting locally to advocate relative to electric vehicles in Eugene's upcoming revised climate action plan, and towards Lane County beginning to develop their first climate action plan.
Impacts . . .

I know declining snowpacks and warmer temperatures could impact me personally, and that coming snow droughts mean less water stored, less streamflow in summer.

Less water could mean less hydropower generation, and that could mean my utility bills for water and electricity go up every month. And with less water, then farmers in the Willamette Valley may have trouble growing their crops . . . be less productive . . . make less money . . . which impacts the entire economy. For me, with less local food available, to keep my carbon footprint even lower, that means it could also cost me more just to eat.

And if you think of trees as being agriculture, grown as crops, and the impacts of drought on trees, and other impacts, like insects and disease, well, less timber, right? More economic impacts to more people . . . and we all make the state's economy work, so when that happens the impacts cascade down to everyone.

So we've got to do something about it. Decreasing carbon dioxide and making less of it is one way to make that happen.

That's what this legislation is about, and so let's at least give it a try. In the end, if it's really not working, then the legislature can always try other solutions. Change is hard, but change can happen. We got rid of slavery. We got rid of just men voting. Let's get rid of carbon dioxide, too.

Testimony submitted by Al LePage, Eugene, OR, February 20, 2020