

Testimony provided to the
Oregon House Rules Committee
from Christopher Orsinger, Eugene, OR 97405 • Concerned Citizen
Re: **HB 4167**: “Modifies statewide greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals”
February 20, 2020

I support robust and comprehensive legislative action to address the climate emergency Oregon is now experiencing. I support HB4167 and its companion SB1530 to establish a regulatory framework to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We need this legislation to jumpstart and accelerate our transition to a carbon neutral economy.

The complexity of the climate emergency requires action at all levels. Individuals, families, businesses, cities, counties, states, nations each have a moral responsibility to take robust, meaningful action now to reduce the harm to our children and grandchildren.

This bill is the result of more than 8 years of deliberation, and contains numerous refinements to address concerns of various industries, businesses, and diverse communities.

If you are among those who are being asked or are considering walking out on your duty to serve as an elected legislator, I have a sincere request: Please reflect deeply on our role as adults and your role as elected leaders to steward our natural resources so they still here for future generations to use and enjoy. If you want to block this legislation, I implore you for the sake of all of our children, consider how you will answer your grandchildren when they ask: “Why didn’t you do more to leave us a share of the Creator’s bounty? Why didn’t you do more to leave us the Oregon you enjoyed during your lifetime?”

Climate solutions are now abundant: electric vehicles, renewable electric generation, improved forest management practices, capture of methane from landfills and livestock manure lagoons., and more. And this bill dedicates funding to grow sustainable rural economies that continue to provide timber and agricultural products.

Without robust climate action, we can count on more destructive forest fires, reduction of snowpack and irrigation and drinking water supplies, continued harm to our salmon fisheries, and increased flood damage to public infrastructure, including sewage plants, businesses, and homes low-lying areas. Remember the Paradise Fire? Let’s create a different future in Oregon.

For the sake of all our children, let’s work together to pass climate legislation this session.