

My name is Karen Austin, I'm a volunteer climate activist with 350 Eugene, for the last 2 years, am a concerned mother of two, and live in Eugene. I moved to Oregon over 32 years ago to complete a Master's Degree in Wildlife Biology and made this state my home.

Thank you for your dedication to providing comprehensive legislation on the critical issue of climate change in our great state.

We are in a climate crisis, need strong climate solutions, this year! Two ecosystems important to rural economies, the oceans and forests, will not provide the profits of the past due to climate change. Ocean warming and acidification will continue to devastate fisheries. Tree die-offs and Wildfires will reduce forest industry profits, threaten rural communities, and reduce recreation. Wildfire creates health problems and mortality, with a large medical price tag, estimated to be 2.1 billion in the Willamette Valley in 2012 alone <sup>1</sup>.

HB 4167 should be stronger to reduce pollution from fossil fuel natural gas, and to increase investments for a strong, clean economy. We need to reduce greenhouse gases from oil companies all across the state. As written, this legislative proposal would pay large polluters to continue business as usual rather than holding them accountable. We need significant investments in communities most affected by climate change -- rural, low-income, Tribes and communities of color.

Please be the brave leaders that constituents need in this time of change, misinformation, polarization and fear. I believe that we can make a difference in our future with strong climate laws, if we act with intention and courage.

If Republican legislators walk out again, I support changing Oregon's constitution to reduce the current quorum requirement. I find it unconscionable that any group of legislators would use these underhanded practices to prevent reasonable solutions to climate change.

Thank you!

Karen Austin