

Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee,

On Monday, myself and 150 other young people came to the capitol to demand action on climate from our lawmakers. I spoke with both Senator Hansell and Representative Barreto on Monday about the passing of a strong Cap and Invest policy. I am angry and disappointed that last year my senator walked out on my future. Every day you delay action, you deny my generation a livable future. Enough is enough.

I have worked the land as a farmhand, I've seen the hard work my dad did working in timber mills, and I spent my entire childhood in the beauty of rural Oregon. As a child, I saw fish populations become so riddled with mercury that my family was unable to eat it, and watched my dad lose jobs over and over again as opportunities became more scarce. Republicans walking out on this bill, or any bill for that matter, is simply them walking out on rural Oregon. On my family. Stay and fight for us. Stay and invest in the rural communities you claim to be protecting.

I support bill HB 4167 because I love people and this land, and this bill will create much needed economic opportunities in rural Oregon, reduce pollution, and protect our environment. I don't see my representatives looking out for me. Oregon youth, farmworkers, tribes and rural Oregonians are counting on the legislature to protect our communities. We hope you won't let us down.

Paris DeMers, 25  
La Grande, OR