

April 17, 2021

Testimony to Chairs Johnson, Steiner, Hayward, Rayfield and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

Dear Representatives,

I wish the Legislature was more aware of the work of our regional grassroots groups and non profits, especially the interfaces being created with businesses to build a carbon marketplace for Oregon, to address food waste as well as boost local food growth, to steward better practices of water and land treatment, to encourage rapid long-distance rail systems, to reduce pollution and waste at points of inception, and to create living communities that don't add to greenhouse gas emissions. "Rebuilding Better" needs to include a respect for the natural world, a reduction in the expansive "cancer of growth" mentality to build, build, build, and an injection of creativity and cash to see what can be viable uses of existing infrastructure. Many entry level jobs to retrofit and apply thoughtful climate solutions to our communities that also give everyone a "stakehold" in their place of residence would be a worthy way to place some tax dollars.

One idea I've shared recently with the Oregon Global Warming Commission is to encourage direct funding through ODA and DEQ, and perhaps other government departments, to help facilitate the work of grassroots organizations. If DEQ for example only offers onerous and extremely time-consuming "reimbursement" grants to CBOs, there's little hope of rapid mobilization on climate solutions. Obviously if the small groups had money to spend they wouldn't be seeking grants that take up the bulk of their time and bandwidth.

A needed message to the Legislature is to ask them to provide more funds to leverage our solutions via business owners and executives in rural Oregon. The film Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN) recently showed, "The Other Side of the Hill", was a great example of what can be accomplished when we introduce financial incentives and benefits into the equation! Another example of collaboration to address climate is the ongoing work of Cultivate Oregon, Friends of Family Farmers, Nori.com and others to build a carbon marketplace and offer financial incentives and rewards to working landowners practicing Regenerative Ag and carbon sequestration.

it would be very helpful if all branches of government receiving funds for climate actions would be required to create jobs that directly improve the environment. The "gig economy" where work is available at nominal pay but with flexible hours was very popular pre-covid. Creating an "environmental jobs corps" that would actually, under supervision of experts, go in to help clean up the forests, help us talk to farmers and other working landowners about carbon sequestration and healthy soil building that reduces water use and chemical inputs, and hire young people as interns for projects "on the ground" would be very forward-thinking. The work needed to address the climate crisis cannot all be accomplished by people working from

desks or on computers. More physical action and less talk! And studying and implementing some of the 100 top peer-reviewed climate change solutions offered by Project Drawdown wouldn't be so difficult if appropriate funds were made available.

Oregon legislature could partner with non profits, city and county staff to implement infrastructure and good resource use programs. Additional funding for specific pilot projects are needed, especially in view of the wildfire devastation across the State. I personally have tried to get interest and resources going to build a water catchment project in Phoenix, Oregon that would restore the creek and build a public park where riparian and collected water would enhance the downtown area plus provide outdoor water for outdoor uses. Our irrigation districts are in trouble with drought and our working landowners are seeking support to mitigate climate change. As you might know, a big reason Phoenix, Oregon was devastated in the Almeda Fire last fall was because water for to fight the fire had to be trucked in from Ashland by tanker.

Another example of how the State could help the cities, counties and businesses is in the transportation sector. Several years ago we tried to develop a trolley system in a continuous loop in Ashland to serve tourists (with a ticket price), locals for free and help alleviate the parking problems downtown. Most towns could use more help with public transportation via non polluting vehicles and help with installing charging stations. There are so many creative solutions waiting in the wing. I believe a means to fund many and modest paying administrative and labor jobs in rural Oregon communities for locals, supervised by the appropriate State, County, City of Community-based Organizations would be a good way to accelerate projects that help us implement climate solutions.

Sincerely, Catie Faryl
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