

Dear Senators,

I am writing today in support of SJM-5. Scientists the world over and our own lived experience tell us that the climate is in crisis and continues to get worse, fueled by the emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The window for taking strong action is rapidly closing. While I appreciate efforts made by individuals and local and state governments to reduce emissions I fear that those efforts pale relative to the urgent need. For the United States to do our part to avoid the worst effects of the climate crisis is going to take action at the federal level. And federal action can only occur if there is bi-partisan support.

That's why I support proposals such as Carbon Fee and Dividend. This market-based approach can effectively help us meet our emission reduction targets in a fair and equitable way. While carbon fees will indeed raise the costs of most goods, the dividend assures that the most vulnerable among us will be more than compensated to cover those higher prices. Market forces will lead to innovation and investment, leading to the creation of millions of new jobs. At the same time, the fact that it does not grow the size of government or pick winners and losers through arcane regulations should have inherent appeal to conservatives.

Unfortunately, Congress has dragged its feet on taking the bold steps necessary to reduce emissions and change our current trajectory towards increasingly catastrophic climate events such as the fires that ravished our state this past summer. They need to hear from all of us - individuals, businesses, and yes, even state legislatures - that we demand sensible action. By passing SJM5 and the -1 amendments the Oregon legislature can send a clear signal to our federal senators and representatives that our state leaders support bi-partisan climate legislation at the federal level and so too should they.