

Testimony in support of SMJ5
OR Senate Energy and Environment Committee

Dear Senators,

I am a long-time climate advocate with the Citizens' Climate Lobby, who has worked for many years in energy efficiency and natural land protection. I'm a scientist by training but have come to the conclusion that federal policy is the key element to addressing climate change. We need to reengineer all aspects of our economy (transportation, agriculture, manufacturing, infrastructure, etc.) to drive to net-zero emissions, but the most important solution to quickly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy, is a federal price on carbon pollution via legislation that will survive the political challenges of our times. The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 763) is the best pending legislation and this is the year, after decades of attempts, to get pass effective climate legislation in Congress.

While reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the revenue raised from a price on carbon will be returned as a dividend directly to the people in a "carbon cashback" scheme that will especially benefit lower-income families. The transition to a clean energy economy will create many new jobs, such as the energy efficiency jobs that are important to the Portland economy.

A few other important aspects of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act:

- It is revenue neutral – not a tax. It is not a cap and trade mechanism.
- It is market-based, not regulatory, so it has a better chance of surviving for the long-term
- It has enormous support including 86 members of the U.S. House of Representatives

I urge you to put Oregon in a leadership role with climate legislation and add your voices of support to SJM 5.

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