



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SJM 5-1 URGING CONGRESS TO ENACT BIPARTISAN CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION

Senator Byers and members of the Oregon Senate Committee on Energy and Environment:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SJR 5 and the -1 Amendments proposed by Senator Dembrow.

My name is Alec Malnati, and I am writing to you on the banks of Mt. Scott Creek in North Clackamas Park. I've been taking morning walks since returning to my home after the recent ice storms, and been tracking how severe weather has impacted the park's health. I have seen resiliency in the communities of birds—including a rare sight of a Hooded Merganser swimming in the creek, dodging fallen branches and other obstacles, like a white water rafter—that nest in the trees of the park, whether for a moment during migration, or semi-permanently.

This area has been inhabited by bands of the Cowlitz, Clackamas, Kalapuya, Molalla and Grand Ronde people. I would like to acknowledge their stories, and our presence in their ancestral homelands.

At the time of writing this, I will be the 44th to give testimony on a Joint Memorial to support a piece of federal legislation. I feel the monumental weight of this moment, and want to thank you for creating this opportunity to give input.

Many statements that have already been made from fellow volunteers of Citizens' Climate Lobby. For the past three years, I have been working with Portland chapter members to create political will for solutions that will safeguard a livable world.

Americans have long grappled with the strength and resiliency of Nature, and many have developed and admiration for it. I believe Oregonians especially have found that our myriad of landscapes are worth protecting.

We do not have to look far back in the record books to see that our environments are changing; many of us can still *feel* that fact. In fact, I have felt these changes during my relatively short life. In my twenty six years as an Oregonian, I write to you today asking you to help me combat the issue of my generation. Whether that issue is called the climate crisis or some other name, it is a clear and present danger to all life where I am residing right now.

And I know that landscapes across our State, and Nation are facing issues just as grave as mine. The time to delay has passed. We have begun to reckon, collectively, with how our lifestyle has contributed to these changes that we all see and have experienced.

My request to you, Senator Byers, and members of the Oregon Senate Committee on Energy and Environment, is simple: add your name to this Joint Memorial.

Previous testimonies have demonstrated the ways in which the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act is the consensus approach. By signing this Joint Memorial, you have the chance to capture the attention of Federal policymakers. and propelling one of the most equitable solutions towards to forefront.

To the members of the State Legislation who have already signed on, I would like to earnestly thank you. I want you to know that there is a deep, broad network of support for elected officials taking action *now* on climate and environmental issues. By taking this step, know that you are not moving forward alone.

Nationally, Americans are asking for support, particularly in the form of financial stimulus—that much we seem to be able to agree on. This particular legislative strategy creates an opportunity for every household to receive a monthly check, while curbing emissions in a necessary magnitude. Having a reliable source of income of a few hundred dollars per month could profoundly alter American livelihoods.

The livelihoods of the more-than-human world are also at stake. You may not recognize the Hooded Merganser, or know the North Clackamas Park like I do, but I know you can understand the importance of this moment. Please take action, take it with urgency, and help protect our natural wonders here in Oregon and across the Nation.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. With respect,

Alec Malnati