

Dear Senator Beyer and members of the Committee,

I am writing as a family doctor, a grandfather, and a climate activist to encourage your adoption of SJM 5, to urge the US Congress to pass HR 763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. I regularly hear from family members in various parts of the country who have been deeply affected by the dramatic and chaotic changes we are experiencing, whether deep freeze and power outages in TX, hurricanes in FL, devastating droughts and wildfires in CA, bizarre winter thaws in ME, and terrifying fires and toxic air in our own beloved Willamette Valley. We are being witness to massive losses of species. The natural world in which my grandchildren will live will be a meager vestige of what we ourselves have been able to appreciate. We know time is running out to take effective action to prevent the worst effects of greenhouse pollutants on our climate.

Therefore, I implore you to bring this measure to final passage by the Oregon Legislature. This would confirm Oregon's role as a national leader, as the first State to support HR 763. This plan will incentivize businesses throughout the country to take the actions they know are necessary to fulfill their role to preserve what is precious to us and to provide a safer and healthier life for our descendants, without dictating to them what exactly they must do. Placing a fee on carbon production will put money in the pockets of average citizens.

We must quickly and drastically reduce carbon emissions. We must spur innovation. We must create new jobs and support those losing jobs in archaic fossil-fuel industries. We must build a green economy for us all. HR 763 is far from being a total solution, but it will go a long way towards these goals. Please pass SJM 5 on to the full Senate with vigorous support.

Sincerely,
Joseph Stenger MD
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