

02/26/2021

Testimony in support of SMJ5 – February 25, 2021,  
OR Senate Energy and Environment Committee

Chair Beyer and Committee Members,

I am delighted to see bipartisan movement on SJM 5.

This tells me that a Revenue Neutral Carbon Fee and Dividend Act could well be the bridge in Congress for the initiation of sorely needed nation wide action on climate change. If implemented, it should have broad support from the voters and citizens since it is increasingly clear to most of them that we are having frequent and extreme weather events. These come with a frightful cost.

It has also become clear that the implementation of climate programs on a state by state basis is unwieldy, complicated and unlikely to get bipartisan support. As we have seen here in Oregon, Cap and Trade is a difficult sell.

Passage of a re-introduced Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act by Congress and the President would not solve the Climate Crisis by itself, but it would be a powerful first step and it would send a strong signal to the country, to business and to the rest of the world that we are committed to lowering our emissions of GHGs.

In addition, the revenue neutrality of such a measure would give a significant financial boost to the economically struggling members of our population.

We need to give American business and the “free market” the incentive to become part of the climate solution and the certainty that the EICD is a good first step.

Thank you giving me the opportunity to give written testimony.

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