

Submitter: Janet Lorenzen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3196

House CE&E Committee

RE: Yes on HB 3196

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Levy and Levy, members of the Committee,

My name is Prof. Janet Lorenzen, I specialize in the study of climate equity at Willamette University. I support HB 3196 to strengthen the implementation of Oregon's cornerstone Climate Protection Program (CPP).

As a member of 350Salem, I worked with the Oregon Climate Action Plan Coalition in 2020 and 2021 to lobby DEQ for robust climate and equity rules in the Climate Protection Program (CPP). One key feature of the CPP is its Community Climate Investment Program (offsets for equity and cost control), which allows regulated oil and gas companies to invest in clean energy investments in communities of color, Tribal, low-income, rural, and coastal communities across Oregon instead of reducing some of their own climate pollution.

Many decisions were left up to the all-volunteer Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) when implementing Community Climate Investments (CCIs). And they have a hard job. They need to fulfill both equity goals (as per the Executive Order 20-04) and pollution reduction goals (so offsets are verifiable, permanent reductions and don't make emissions go over the cap). Their efforts should be supported (EAC members, especially those from environmental justice communities should be paid) and project outcomes in terms of equity variables, emissions, and co-pollution reductions should be audited by the DEQ. Measure what matters! And ensure that the most polluted communities in Oregon are prioritized for relief.

If adequately supported and enforced, the CCI program could support smart economic growth, and cleaner, cheaper, healthier energy and transportation options in environmental justice communities across Oregon, while ensuring that our state stays on track to achieve emissions reductions that are necessary to avoid catastrophic climate impacts.

By enabling the Department of Environmental Quality to provide key oversight and accountability of the CCI program, HB 3196 will help ensure the Climate Protection Program achieves its intended climate pollution reduction goals and benefits for environmental justice communities across the state.

I strongly urge you to support HB 3196.
Thank you,

Prof. Janet Lorenzen
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