

My name is Kelly Campbell and I live in SE Portland. I am the Executive Director of Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, but my most important job is being a parent and so I am here today to speak to you as a mom. My six-year-old son, Finn, is here with me, and it is because of his future and the future of all Oregon's children that I urge you to support SB 477.

We are already feeling the effects of climate change here in Oregon and around the world. Local impacts include low snow pack, drought, wildfire, and air pollution that exacerbates childhood asthma and contributes to neurological damage in children. Coal burning is one of the leading causes of climate change, and fortunately, we have clean energy options that can replace this outdated technology now.

When I explained to Finn why we were coming here today, he asked me "why do adults still use coal when they know that coal hurts kids?" He insisted that adults should know better and that it was not fair to kids that we keep burning coal. And it really is that simple. We have a moral obligation to act now and act boldly to preserve a life-sustaining planet and a clean and green Oregon for our own generation and those to follow us.

We are doing our part as a family to address climate change. Finn and I marched with 400,000 others at the People's Climate March in New York last fall, and we've rallied with other families against coal exports through the Pacific Northwest. Finn rides his bike to school every day and decided to donate his birthday money this year to the Sierra Club to protect foxes and other wildlife from coal pollution. Just yesterday, we had a Clean Energy Works home audit, including looking at the possibility of solar panels for our home. Families like ours across our state are doing their part to support clean energy and a healthy climate. But the transition from coal to clean isn't going to happen simply because of personal decisions—the switch is only going to happen fast enough to protect a life-sustaining climate for our children because you, our elected leaders—take the common sense actions to lead the way to a clean energy future.

My first job out of high school was canvassing for the Clean Air Act in eastern Iowa. I remember going door to door in a working-class neighborhood in Muscatine Iowa, in the shadow of a coal plant. Person after person complained about asthma and other health conditions they knew were related to the coal plant looming in their backyard, and they handed over donations of whatever they had in their wallets to strengthen the Clean Air Act. I am pleased to share that the coal plant in Muscatine was shut down in 2013. By the end of 2015, MidAmerican, Pacific Power's sister company based in Iowa, will get almost 40% of its total generation capacity from its own wind turbines. If they can do it, so can we. There is no excuse for our failure to act now.

As a parent, the future I want for my child is one with a stable climate, clean air and water, good paying, healthy jobs, and the ability to enjoy the beautiful state of Oregon. The Coal to Clean Energy bill you are considering today is a major step in achieving that vision. I urge you to support SB 477 and do the right thing for all the children of Oregon. Thank you.