

Dear Senators Edwards, Olsen, Dembrow, Prozanski and Thomsen,

As a public health nurse, I fully agree with Benjamin's Franklin's quote "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." It is for that reason that I wholeheartedly support SB 477 which would transition our state's energy from coal to clean energy like wind and solar. Coal, the most carbon intensive fossil fuel, is a major contributor to climate change – accounting for over 1/3 of carbon emissions in the US and about ¼ of Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions. It also is extremely toxic and hazardous to our health.

Following are several reasons why I support SB 477.

- The energy sector needs to move beyond using such a harmful and outdated energy source. Wind, solar and other renewables offer safe and healthy options. We no longer would consider using manual typewriters so why should we stay stuck in the past and continue to use coal. A recent poll shows that 71% of Oregonians agree that we need to transition off of coal to clean, renewable energy by 2025.
- Passage of SB 477 will not result in job losses here in Oregon. Rather, the opposite will occur – jobs will be created. The wind and solar industries have already created an estimated 5,000 family-wage jobs throughout Oregon. There are more than 1,000 megawatts of clean energy projects that are already permitted and waiting to build. Removing coal from our electricity mix opens up room for these and other job-creating clean energy projects.
- The provisions in SB 477 provide an opportunity to take actions that will complement rather than complicate the state's implementation of EPA 111D.
- Passage of SB 477 which would transition us off of coal would go a long way towards helping Oregon meet their goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions (see [keeporegoncool.org](http://keeporegoncool.org)).
- SB 477 will authorize the Oregon PUC to work with (not against) PGE and Pacific Power to create and carry out a plan to transition off of coal and significantly increase renewable energy in our region. They will have adequate time (10 years) to make this happen.
- Renewable energy is affordable and cost-effective. Prices have already dropped significantly and are projected to drop even further while coal will become more expensive as coal plants meet the pollution standards. Thus ratepayers should benefit as we transition from coal to clean energy.

I thank you for your service and urge you to please support Senate Bill 477 that will move Oregon towards a clean energy future.

Sincerely,  
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