

April 13, 215

Subject: Testimony in support of HB 3250

To Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee, (via Beth Patrino
(beth.patрино@state.or.us))

I am writing to ask your support for HB 3250, which would put a cap on carbon emissions by auctioning CO2 emission allowances to fossil fuel vendors. Revenue from the sales would be placed in a dedicated public trust fund and distributed back to Oregonians annually on an equal share basis.

As an Environmental Engineer who does energy efficiency consulting for municipal and industrial water treatment processes, I have come to realize that the price of fossil fuel generated electricity does not reflect the true cost to society of the pollution it generates which adversely affects human health and the stability of our climate. Because of its low price, many of my industrial and municipal clients are reluctant to invest in energy efficiency projects because the payback periods are too long to meet their financial criteria.

HB 3250 will provide the much needed price signal on carbon fuels by incrementally decreasing the number of allowances sold at auction so that by 2050, greenhouse gas emission levels are 85 percent below 1990 levels. This will increase the price of carbon generated electricity so that all sectors of the economy will find it profitable to invest in energy efficiency projects and buy renewable energy.

I urge you to support a "do pass" recommendation for HB 3250 for the following reasons:

1. The bill would bring our greenhouse gas emissions 85% below 1990 levels by 2050, matching the reduction rate we need to avoid a 2°C rise in global temperature averages.
- 2 By returning the auction proceeds to every Oregonian as an annual dividend, it would offset any negative economic impacts on vulnerable low income households.
3. No constitutional amendment would be necessary to address Section 3a, Article IX of the Oregon Constitution which conscripts all fees and taxes on motor vehicle fuels for highway use.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Walter C. Mintkeski, Professional Engineer, Oregon Registration # 08497PE

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