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April 13, 2015

Honorable Jessica Vega Pederson,
Chair, House Committee on Energy & Environment
Honorable Members of the Committee
Honorable Senator Alan Bates
Honorable Representative Peter Buckley

Leaders:

I am a caregiver in southern Oregon, so cannot attend your hearing April 14 in Salem, but want to offer these comments for your consideration.

I am also a very concerned member of SOCAN, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now. Our family has been committed to lessening our carbon footprint for many years and is continuing to evaluate and adapt our personal practices. Although very important, individual actions are not sufficient to address our very real global warming and climate disruption issues. I vigorously urge you to take meaningful actions this legislative sessions. There is increasing urgency, and the lives of our children and future generations are dependent on decisions you make.

I applaud prior action to set climate goals for Oregon. The challenge now is to require they be implemented. I strongly urge you to adopt HB 3470, the Climate Stability and Justice Act.

I also urge enactment of legislation that encourages Oregon's transition to renewables and conservation. Regarding solar, I urge your support of HB 2447 and 2745 in particular, and keen consideration of HB 2632 and HB 2941. I am unaware of specific bills supporting wind, but urge your consideration of that also. For rural areas, the creation of family-wage jobs in these proven industries would not only support our climate goals, but provide needed income in ways that are compatible with our environment (unlike the proposed Jordan Cove LNG plant which would greatly increase Oregon emissions and move us further from our state goals).

Thank you for your consideration,

Estelle Voeller