

## TESTIMONY FOR HB 3250

### Carbon Pricing

Our family is dedicated to the preservation of our City, State, Nation and World, as safe habitats for present and future generations. We are greatly concerned that these habitats are being ravaged by fossil fuel use. This threat is of epic proportions, the greatest which all humans have ever encountered. We are especially concerned that sufficient progress is not being made to resolve this threat. This is our condition, 35-years after the National Academy of the Sciences issued its first warning about escalating climate disasters and attributed them to fossil fuel use. It is time for a change in attitude about fossil fuels and a decision to eliminate them from use, once and for all times.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the 2015 Oregon Legislature enact into law House Bill 3250. Passage of this bill will put an end to Oregon's complicity in the lethal-enterprise of burning fossil fuels. It will set an example for other states, our nation and world to clean up their energy acts for the health and security of everyone.

Fortunately, Oregon's economy is not dependent on fossil fuels. For major improvements in the health and security of Oregonians, as well as residents of the rest of our world, Oregon can and must set the necessary example. That is by replacing fossil fuels with non-destructive forms of renewable energy at the earliest possible time. The economic advantages of eliminating fossil fuel use in Oregon is extraordinary. Oregon has a paucity of fossil-fuel deposits. It has immediate access to unlimited amounts of renewable energy. Why not use this asset to create better health and security as well as new businesses and employment for Oregonians?

The large amount of capital, that now leaves Oregon each year to pay for fossil fuels and electricity generated by burning fossil fuels, will begin to be repatriated. The amount will increase each year until fossil fuels are entirely replaced by clean, renewable energy, "harvested in Oregon". From that time forward Oregon will be energy-independent and energy-secure. The retained capital will create new business and employment opportunities for Oregonians. The high cost of medical care for Oregonians will decrease, adding to the economic benefit of harvesting our own clean, renewable forms of energy.

We make this request for passage of HB 3250 in consideration of the following:

- There is irrefutable evidence from the medical and related sciences that the use of fossil fuels releases toxins into the air we breathe, the water we drink and the soil in which our food is grown. These toxins cause and/or contribute to four of the five leading causes of death in the United States, including heart disease, cancer, stroke, and lung diseases and put our children at risk of asthma and delayed mental development.

<http://www.ehhi.org/reports/exhaust/exhaust06.pdf>

<http://newsoffice.mit.edu/2013/study-air-pollution-causes-200000-early-deaths-each-year-in-the-us-0829>

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3440120/>

- There is irrefutable evidence from the climate and related sciences that fossil fuels produce excessive amounts of greenhouse gases; that these greenhouse gases cause global warming and

that global warming increases the frequency and destructiveness of climate-related disasters. These disasters include drought, forest infestation and fires which are already affecting parts of Oregon; that such disasters will take an increasing toll on the lives of Oregonians and are a clear and present danger to everyone in the the world.

[http://ocri.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/ClimateChangeNW\\_2pgSummary.pdf](http://ocri.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/ClimateChangeNW_2pgSummary.pdf)

<https://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/climatechange/Pages/Climate-and-Health-Profile.aspx>

<http://www.ipcc.ch>

- There is ample evidence that replacement of fossil fuels with clean energy will be beneficial to Oregonians. Numerous studies conclude that states, like Oregon, can transition from a fossil-fuel economy to a clean, renewable-energy economy with major, positive benefits, reflected in new businesses and employment opportunities for Oregonians.

<https://www.pdx.edu/nerc/sites/www.pdx.edu.nerc/files/NERC%20Carbon%20Tax%20Report%20fact%20sheet.pdf>

<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/remi-report/>

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3440120/>

<http://www.eia.gov/state/print.cfm?sid=OR>