

Honorable Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair, House Committee on Energy and Environment
Honorable Members of the Committee
900 Court Street NE, Room 347,
Salem, Oregon 97301
Phone: 503-986-1751

April 13, 2015

Dear Chair Vega Pederson and House Energy and Environment Committee,

The earth is heating up at an unprecedented rate. Scientists, for over 25 years have been predicting that escalating Greenhouse Gas emissions would trap heat and create extreme weather events. Across the globe record high temperatures have been set, storms have raged with unusual strength and high precipitation levels and eight of the last nine years have been the hottest on record.

Here in Southern Oregon, we have unequivocally been experiencing some of these extreme weather events that are a predicted result of global warming. We have had virtually no snow or winter in two years and spring is now arriving 3 weeks ahead of normal. We had extreme drought last summer which dried up our neighbor's well for the first time in 60 years and burned 10,000 acres a day in the Oregon Gulch Fire close to where we live up on the Greensprings. On February 6th of this year, we had a tropical storm of unprecedented strength drop 4 inches of rain in 24 hours causing slides and road closures on Highway 66 and extreme high winds that toppled literally hundreds of thousands of trees in a swath from just east of Susanville, California right across the Cascade range between Klamath Falls and Ashland. We have read...we have watched...and now we are worried.

National leaders have agreed that to allow the earth to warm beyond 2 degree Celsius will be a disaster. Due to inaction and business-as-usual we are now 4/5th of the way to that mark. PLEASE, we ask you to heed the impending shifts that are happening across the planet and recognize the urgency that is needed in starting to stem the flow of greenhouse gases. We have taken our own steps with solar and conservation, but these, on a small scale will not be enough. We need you, our state legislators and government, to help lead and reduce these Greenhouse gas emissions and we believe you have a perfect opportunity to do just that with HB3470.

The time to act is now and we are writing in strong support of House Bill 3470 (known as the Climate Stability and Justice Act). Of all of the bills you will be considering at your Committee Hearing on April 14th, HB 3470 is the strongest climate policy and, with a few minor modifications to the current version of the bill, can easily accomplish these key objectives:

- Limits and reduces greenhouse gas emissions with specific targets & timelines
- Requires use of best science to identify key targets
- Provides state agency responsibility and authority
- Gives state agency strategic implementation discretion to meet targets
- Requires five year reporting & strategic adjustments
- Must include full accounting methods for carbon emissions (aka: life cycle analysis)
- Provides mitigation for low income communities
- Integrates existing regulations into single comprehensive program
- Integrates with neighboring state actions for a greater consistency and impact

For our children and for yours, please support HB 3470.

Thank you,

Deb Evans and Ron Schaaf
Ashland, Oregon