

Mickelson Anastasia

From: Patrino Beth
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 2:59 PM
To: Mickelson Anastasia
Subject: FW: Testimony in support of HB 3250

From: Mercer KB [<mailto:kb@travelinglantern.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 2:58 PM
To: Patrino Beth
Subject: Testimony in support of HB 3250

Dear Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee,

I am the CEO of an OR "S" Corp who owns and manages a small business in Portland, OR. In my spare time I am very involved with activism, community organizing, and in educating myself about the myriad of issues that contribute to the degradation of our environment.

I am writing today to ask for your support for HB 3250, which would put a cap on carbon emissions by auctioning allowances and distributing the revenue back to Oregonians.

Nationally, we are simply not moving fast enough to meet the carbon emission standards we must achieve in order to keep our environment in good health. HB 3250 is the type of overall carbon pricing mechanism that we simply must enact, state by state, and nation by nation, in order to take the bull by the horns on Climate Change.

My father was a NASA scientist who helped us get to the moon, and he was a lifelong Republican who denied Climate Change until the day he died, two years ago, today. In thinking back on his views, which I do very often, I now realize that he loved freedom, free-markets, capitalism, and our way of life so much that the societal adjustments required to confront climate change were just too threatening for him to accept. Too many of the "fixes" offered by Democrats like me smacked to him of Socialism, or worse, Communism. He grew up during WW2, and doing anything to arbitrarily limit American prosperity was simply unacceptable to him.

I can see why.

In honor of my Dad, I am gearing my testimony today to any members on the committee who might be concerned by the same threats, and I appreciate the opportunity to do so.

I believe that free-markets and capitalism can become the very engines that will turn the tide on climate change.

If we adopt strong, targeted carbon-pricing mechanisms, like HB 3250, we will align market forces with the reduction of carbon pollution, and an environmentally responsible paradigm can be supported and sustained by our mighty free-market system.

HB 3250 would meet our carbon reduction target, render many EPA regulations unnecessary, require no new governmental bureaucracy, give money back to Oregonians rather than taxing them, spur new business and investments in OR, create jobs, and make us a national leader in the vital and coming new industries of clean energy.

A Carbon Pricing Cap:

- 1) Reduces emissions to 85% below 1990 levels by 2050, which is where scientists tell us we need to be.
- 2) Is costly only to businesses and individuals choosing dirty energy - which is not what is happening under the current system.
- 3) Estimates approx. \$500 to \$1500 back to individual Oregonian families each year in dividends - a rebate.
- 4) Most working families who would end up with MORE money in their pockets, not less - spurring economic growth.

No Big Government:

- 1) Administration of a carbon pricing mechanism like HB 3250 can be handled by government agencies already in place - no new regulative agency is needed.
- 2) HB 3250 would render some EPA regulations unnecessary - easing regulatory control over OR businesses.
- 3) Would eliminate need for renewable energy subsidies - less government control and regulation.
- 4) This solution works with the free-market - it does not pick winners and losers.

Good for Business:

- 1) By encouraging alternative cleaner choices, HB 3250 would spur growth in the alternative energy business sector here in OR - non-outsourcable jobs.
- 2) Creates an instant state-wide market for cheaper alternatives to fossil fuels - creating businesses and jobs in OR.
- 3) Money normally going out of the state to fossil fuel companies will return to the state and can be used for investment - more capital invested locally
- 4) Carbon pricing would spur faster growth in the alternative energy sector due to increased demand in the state - attracting alternative energy companies and start-ups because of a guaranteed market, potentially making us a national/world leader in Clean Energy Businesses.

Inevitability and Leadership:

- 1) By putting a price on carbon emissions globally, no nation gains advantage over another by undercutting the environment.
- 2) This market is coming, worldwide, and some people are going to make a lot of money in it: it might as well be Oregonians!

Finally, HB 3250 is simply smart for Oregon.

Climate Change is real, and it is happening now. Denial is no longer a response that the majority of Americans find acceptable in their leaders.

Instead of tying our businesses into knots one regulation at a time, let's utilize a foundational, systemic mechanism like HB 3250, and let the free-market do it's magic.

Thank you;

KB Mercer

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