



**Testimony to the House Energy and Environment Committee
on Carbon Pricing
(House Bills 3470, 3252 and 3250)**

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APANO**

Founded in 1996, The Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) is a statewide, grassroots organization, uniting Asians and Pacific Islanders to achieve social justice. We use our collective strengths to advance equity through empowering, organizing and advocating with our communities. Asian and Pacific Islander (API) Communities makes up about 6% of Oregon's population.

Climate change impacts represent a threat to the way of life for API communities and families in Oregon. APANO encourages the State of Oregon to take action and reduce harmful climate pollution through pricing carbon emissions in an equitable manner.

API communities are and will continue to be disproportionately impacted by climate change in Oregon. For example, since 1990, East Portland's Jade District's Asian population has doubled, Latino population has tripled, and African American population has increased sevenfold. While this area has grown twice as fast as the city, it has become far poorer. The area is also one of the most traffic-congested corridors in the entire region and correspondingly, this community faces the highest exposure to air toxins and related chronic health concerns in the city. We believe that action is necessary to prepare and protect our communities and families against these kinds of climate change impacts, now and for future generations.

Climate solutions, including carbon pricing, can increase costs for low-income Oregonians who are disproportionately people of color and who spend a higher percentage of their income on transportation and energy. We must ensure that Oregon's tools for carbon regulation will not disproportionately impact communities of color by embedding intentional and targeted equity measures that both mitigate impact and create new benefits and opportunities. It is also essential to support the engagement, advocacy and leadership of communities of color on climate solutions.

APANO supports an Oregon effort to price carbon and reinvest in communities of color and low-income communities most impacted by climate change. APANO is optimistic that if done equitably, these investments will create opportunities for good, family wage

jobs, better transportation options, healthier environments and more resilient communities.