



April 14, 2015

Jessica Vega-Pederson, Chair
House Committee on Energy and the Environment
State Capitol Building
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Ms. Vega-Pederson,

The Douglas County Global Warming Coalition representing over 400 citizens in our community urges you to support legislation to cap and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Both House Bills 3250 and 3470 accomplish this goal. Placing a price on greenhouse gas pollution is an effective and fair way of addressing climate change. Through this market mechanism, Oregon can become a powerful example of how best to do our share to stop global warming and, at the same time, spur job creation and economic growth in a cleanenergy future.

Any carbon pricing bill must be built on the twin pillars of effectively reducing emissions while doing so fairly and equitably. These bills not only meaningfully reduce emissions in a reasonable time frame but contain mechanisms that ensure the economic well-being of our citizens. And for rural communities such as Douglas County which need to diversify their economic base, these bills will serve as an incentive for the development and use of clean energy technologies and the jobs they will bring.

Sadly, our rural communities are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In timber dependent Douglas County, droughts, diminishing snowpacks and wildfires are threatening lives and livelihoods. Insect outbreaks and diseases traced to higher temperatures are causing widespread tree die-off in the Pacific Northwest. Ocean acidification along our coast is harming shellfish and other marine life.

And the situation will not get any better unless we act now. The National Climate Assessment released in May, 2014 projected that during this century, the annual area burned by wildfires will quadruple to two million acres in the Pacific Northwest.

Today, we have a choice. Either we conduct business as usual with unacceptable consequences to follow or we can take responsibility and leave for our children a safe climate and a healthy, vibrant clean energy economy. We must put a price on carbon or pay the price of carbon. We urge you to support House Bills 3250 and 3470 to cap and reduce carbon pollution and protect our State and future generations.

Sincerely,

The Board of the Douglas County Global Warming Coalition
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