

**From:** Alan Journet <alanjournet@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 18, 2015 12:22 PM  
**To:** Patrino Beth  
**Subject:** Submission for Energy and Environment

Representative Vega Pederson and members of the Oregon House Energy and Environment Committee:

There is no doubt that we have seen heat waves, droughts, low snowpack, and wildfires before. However, rarely have these phenomena occurred together or with such intensity. What we see is the appearance of an array of climatic events that are consistent with what climate science has been predicting. While we cannot pinpoint global warming as the cause of any signal given weather event, the array of patterns that we are seeing is surely evidence enough to suggest a global warming cause. If we accept this premise, the logical conclusion is that we should be doing, individually and collectively (through government action) whatever we can to reduce our emissions of the causal greenhouse gases.

The projections for Oregon suggest, under the 'business as usual' conditions a ever-increased greenhouse gas emissions, a warming through this century of between 8 and 10 degrees F across the state west to east. The ocean acidification that atmospheric carbon dioxide increase has caused, and promises, will likewise compromise our marine systems and fisheries.

Prior to retirement in 2010, I taught Biology for 30 years at Southeast Missouri State University. My concern about climate change was generated by an understand of the Whittaker graph identifying the climatic influence on the world's biomes (natural systems) –

eg [http://www.marietta.edu/~biol/biomes/biome\\_main.htm](http://www.marietta.edu/~biol/biomes/biome_main.htm). This reveals the problem. One can easily see that an average regional temperature shift of fewer than 10 degrees Fahrenheit can easily adjust that region out of the climatic zone where the current biomes can be supported. If we consider the IPCC projections for 2300 under the business as usual scenario, we see temperature increases of 20 degrees Fahrenheit are quite possible – a change that would devastate biomes globally. Reflecting on the reality that our agriculture and forestry are dependent on the same climatic parameters makes us realize we are desperately at the mercy of our climate and need to prevent its divergence too far from current conditions. This realization led me to a professional appreciation of the importance of our individually and collectively addressing this issue.

As an individual who is doing as much as I can to reduce my personal emissions of greemhouse gases, I write in connection with our collective need to address this problem. I realize that Oregon is one small state in the global scheme of contributors, but just as one individual will not make the difference yet must do whatever he/she can, I suggest Oregon should do the same.

With this in mind, I write to urge the Oregon Legislature to take advantage of the moment and pass substantial and meaningful legislation that will lead to our reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.