

Mickelson Anastasia

From: Patrino Beth
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2015 2:57 PM
To: Mickelson Anastasia
Subject: FW: Support for HB 3470 - Please move it out of committee

From: Tonya Graham [<mailto:tonya@geosinstitute.org>]
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2015 2:55 PM
To: Patrino Beth
Subject: Support for HB 3470 - Please move it out of committee

Dear Chair Vega Pederson and members of the House Energy and Environment Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the staff, board, and supporters of the Geos Institute, a nonprofit organization based in Ashland that uses science to help people predict, reduce, and prepare for climate change. Our work takes us around the United States helping communities understand the changes they are seeing and what they can expect in the future. Those projects show us just how bad impacts are in other parts of the country and remind us that we are not immune from impacts in Oregon. Our snowpack is diminishing over time and we will continue to face impacts driven by a changing climate that we will need to respond to.

But the truth is, we cannot adapt our way out of this. Climate change is real, it is caused by people, and we MUST act to reduce the eventual extent of climate change in order to avoid catastrophic disruptions for our children. We simply must. And we are calling on you to help us get started here in Oregon because we know that adaptation and efforts to build community resilience only work when paired with strong policies that force us as a society to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Our state and country need leadership on this issue and Oregon is once again positioned to take the lead on an incredibly important issue - as we have done many times in the past with issues like land use planning, coastline management, and curbing waste (bottle bill).

The Energy and Environment Committee has an opportunity to show real leadership in House Bill 3470 (the Climate Stability and Justice Act). The bill relies on the best available science to set targets and puts in place a feedback loop so that we understand the progress we are making over time and can adjust as new information becomes available. It is both smart and responsible.

The people of Oregon are ready for this - they want to be asked to make a difference for their state and country. The technology is available to reduce greenhouse gases and we believe in the creative spirit and innovative thinking of Oregonians, both of which are badly needed in the effort to address climate change.

Please do all you can to advance HB 3470 this legislative session. Specifically, we request that you take action to pass HB 3470 out of Committee on April 21st.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Tonya Graham | Executive Director
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